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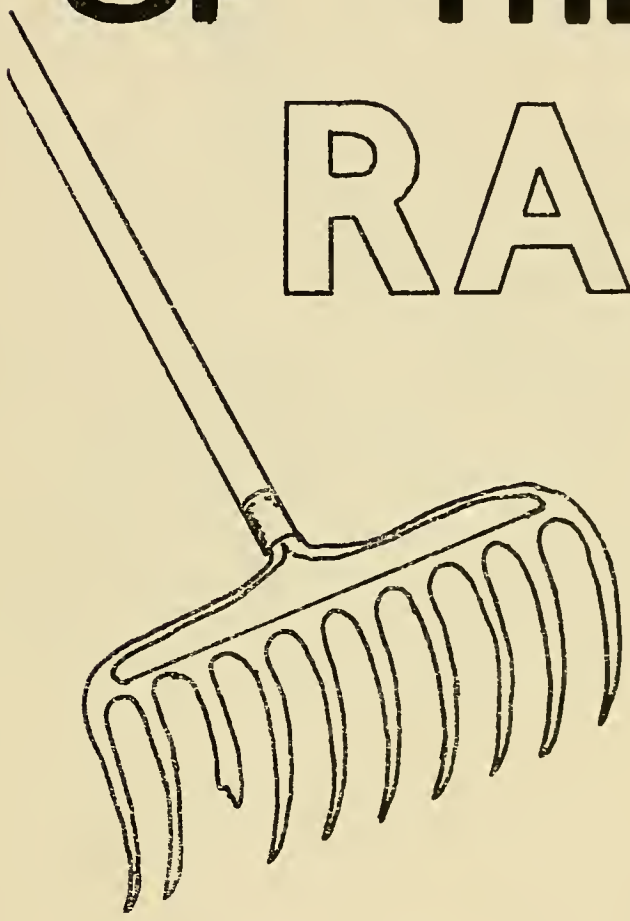
THE TEETH OF THE RAKE



George Warner Skilton, *Editor*
N. William Petersen, *Artist*

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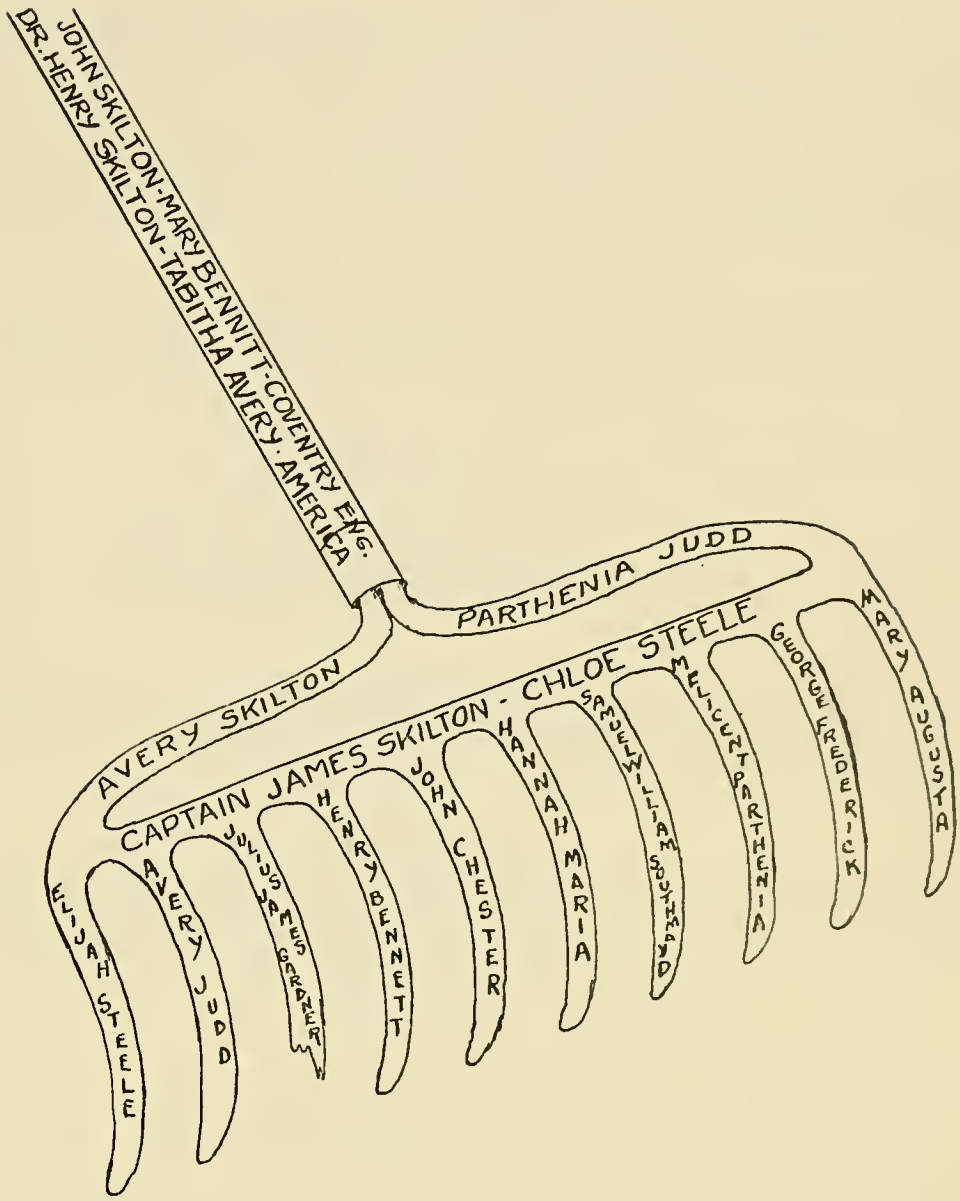


"It is indeed desirable to be well descended, but the glory belongs to our ancestors."
Plutarch

FOREWORD

Those of you who saw the immortal Will Rogers in the movie "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court" will remember how, dazed by his new surroundings and confounded by the Shakespearean English, he blurted out, "Canst thou telleth me who the helleth I am?"

Undoubtedly many members of the Skilton Family feel much the same way at a Reunion. Many of us don't know from which branch of the Family Tree we descended; which "Tooth of the Rake" is ours; nor what our relationship is to that new relative we have just met.

The purpose of this little brochure is to acquaint you with the wonderful heritage which is ours by virtue of the marriages of our ancestors with the Averys, the Judds, the Steeles, the Candees, the Clarks, the Whites, and others.

While researching for this brochure, I ran across a quotation from a book I read many years ago. It seems to me to be particularly pertinent.

> "Why, this living in the past and peering backward has got so deep settled on me that I've gone to hauling my ancestors out of their graves, oblivion and obscurity and parading 'em around before me. Wal, when a fellow ain't got nothing much to look forward to, it's mighty nice to have a noble, glorious ancestry to look back on."

The Genealogies are almost gone — probably before this page is printed "Dr. Henry Skilton and His Descendants" will be a collector's item. This brochure won't take its place, but it will give you a brief genealogical and historical sketch of the Skilton Family.

* * * * * *

Many people have helped in the preparation of this brochure. My thanks to all of them. I have used freely from our Genealogy and the Supplement thereto without giving credit. In many cases, reference is made to them so that the reader will know where to find a more complete account. When I have copied from other sources, credit has been given.

May you, the reader, have as much enjoyment in reading this as I have had in compiling it.

Perhaps this brochure will stimulate interest in each branch or each family to prepare its own Family Tree. The third, fourth and fifth cousins whom one meets won't seem so far away when their relationship to you is known. They all unite in the handle of The Rake.

George Warner Skilton

Farmington,
Connecticut
October
1964

THE TEETH OF THE RAKE

Henry Skilton came from England,
From that land across the sea;
Left his kinfolk all behind him
In the town of Coventry.

Stopped awhile in Massachusetts,
In the land of pike and cod;
Followed Congregational principles
In the worship of his God.

Took unto himself Tabitha,
She was from the Avery clan;
All the time he was a-studying
To become a "medicine-man."

Henry's only son was drafted
In the Revolutionary War.
Replaced his son—now all descendents
Can join the "S." or "D. A. R."

Avery married young Parthenia,
Started quite a family.
Name goes back to thirteen hundred,
For she was a Judd, you see.

Captain James, our own ancestor,
Wed his sweetheart, Chloe Steele;
Brought up ten strong, sturdy children;
None died young, the books reveal.

Captain James and Chloe Steele,
Affectionately for their sake,
We remember their ten children
As the ten Teeth of the Rake.

G. W. S.

THE RAKE

Captain James and Chloe Steele Skilton's ten children were all born in the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, with the exception of the oldest, Elijah Steele Skilton. Although he, too, was born in Watertown, the exact location is not known.

For years, the Skilton Family—and particularly those who worked on the Genealogy—have affectionately referred to these ten children as "The Teeth of the Rake."

The HANDLE of the Rake shows the names of
John Skilton and Mary Bennitt
our ancestors who
lived in Coventry,
England

Dr. Henry Skilton and Tabitha Avery
our first ancestors
in America,
John's son
and his wife.

The BRACES of the Rake carry the names of
Avery Skilton and Parthenia Judd
Dr. Henry's son
and his wife.

The MAIN PART of the Rake has the names of
Captain James Skilton and Chloe Steele
Avery's son
and his wife.

Each TINE bears the name of a child. Reading from left to right, the first is the oldest; the last, the youngest. Note their third child, Julius James Gardner, did not marry. Therefore, we have shown a broken tine, indicating no descendants.

At the celebration of our 100th Reunion, it is well for us to pause and pay tribute to the one who has always been considered the Mother of our Family Gatherings and Family Reunions, to whom this brochure is lovingly dedicated:

GRANDMOTHER CHLOE STEELE SKILTON

THE SKILTONS IN ENGLAND

Derivation of Name

The ancient home of the Skilton (formerly Skelton) Family was in Cumberlandshire, England, in the parish of Skelton, from which the family took its name. The name was written "de Skelton" as long as the family owned the Skelton estate or parish and resided there. The prefix was dropped by emigrating portions of the family, and finally was entirely omitted after the middle of the fifteenth century.

Some derive the name of the parish directly from the British language — Skell (water) and Tone (town). (Isn't it a strange coincidence that Dr. Henry Skilton ultimately settled in Watertown, Connecticut.)

Others believe the town was not named until the latter half of the Anglo-Saxon period, or possibly as late as 1090, when its cultivation began. Thus they derive the name from the Anglo-Saxon language — Skaling (a hut). Huts were built in numbers in the forests of Inglewood to shelter the herdsmen who tended the vast herds which fed in the ancient forest, in time forming a village; and when cultivation began, the place was called Skaling-ton, -tone, -tune, etc.

Coat of Arms

The de Skeltons and Skeltons served their kings so well that they were given coats of arms. Because of our inability to prove conclusively the connection between the de Skeltons, the Skeltons and the Skiltons, the use of the Skelton coat of arms by descendants of Dr. Henry Skilton is questionable.

(See pages 11 and 12 of "Dr. Henry Skilton and His Descendants.")

The Skiltons

We can trace our ancestry back only to John Skilton, who was born in Coventry, England, about 1688. The date and place of his death are not known.

It was the custom in England in those days for each church to maintain the records of vital statistics of its members. The records of the Skilton Family were kept in Saint Michael's Church in Coventry. Records prior to the birth of John Skilton were lost when the church was destroyed by fire. Disaster again hit Coventry when the rebuilt church was destroyed by incendiary bombs in World War II. A new cathedral has been erected on the same site.

According to Dr. Avery Judd Skilton, in 1850 the name Skilton was relatively rare in England. In 1915 there were a number of Skiltons in South Wales. At that time I corresponded with a Clyde Skilton living there. He wrote me that his father often mentioned his relatives living in the Coventry area.

It is probable that the change from Skelton to Skilton took place about the beginning of the eighteenth century. It is pure surmise, of course, but our ancestor, John Skilton, might have been one of the first to use this spelling. (The intermingling of "Skelton" and "Skilton" in the records of Saint Michael's Church renders this surmise plausible.)

John Skilton and Mary Bennitt were married on June 23, 1717, in Saint Michael's Episcopal Church in Coventry. (See a portion of the Record contained in the Book of Registers, No. 1, opposite page 176 of the Genealogy.)

They had four children of whom we have a record:

Henry Skilton, the oldest and our ancestor.

John, baptized February 9, 1721, at Saint Michael's. Certificate of the Vicar of that church shows that John Skelton and Jane Weston were married by Banns, February 13, 1739, "both of this parish." (Apparently "Skelton" and "Skilton" were used indiscriminately, although poor penmanship could be partly responsible.)

Mary, baptized January 30, 1724, at Saint Michael's.

Sarah, baptized April 19, 1728, at Romsey, England. (Cothren says "Rumsey.") Certificate of the Vicar of Saint Michael's Church shows that Sarah Skelton or Skilton married Thomas Sharp.

THE SKILTONS IN AMERICA

First Ancestor in America

Henry Skilton was born at Coventry, England, November 19, 1718, and was baptized at Saint Michael's Church on December 3, 1718. When he was eight years old the family moved to Rumsey, Hampshire County, England, where his sister, Sarah, was born and where his mother died. The date of her death is not known.

On March 31, 1734, Henry left home and decided to emigrate to America. Having little or no money with which to pay for his passage, he was fortunate in securing employment as a clerk on a gunship bound for America. He left England on April 1, 1735. Upon arriving at Boston, he remained for awhile in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He is next heard of in Preston, Connecticut, where he married Tabitha Avery, on July 9, 1741. She was born at Norwich, Connecticut, on February 25, 1717, the daughter of Joseph Avery and Tabitha Gardiner. (Taken from Cothren.)

Dr. Henry Skilton—the Averys

Tabitha Avery's marriage to Henry Skilton brought a rich ancestral heritage to the Skilton Family. The Averys trace their ancestry back to about the year 1590 when Christopher Avery, a weaver, was born in England. There are several traditions with regard to his immigration to the new world. One is that he came from Salisbury, Wilts County, England, in the "Arbella" with John Winthrop, and landed at Salem, Massachusetts, June 12, 1630. Another tradition is that he came over with the younger Winthrop in 1631, and that, on the voyage, the subsequent Governor of Connecticut formed a strong and lifelong attachment for Christopher's young son, James.

Tabitha was of the fifth generation of Averys; Henry, the second of the Skiltons.

Tabitha[5] Avery, Joseph, James, James, Christopher[1].

(See pages 15-24, incl. of the Genealogy.)

In the Reunion Report for 1901, this reference to Christopher Avery was made:

> ". . . one of the famed band, who stepped from the Mayflower to Plymouth Rock on that memorable December day in 1620."

How Henry and Tabitha Met

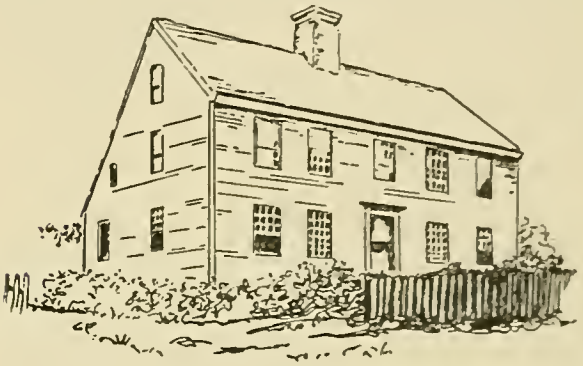
On pages 18 and 19 of the Genealogy, there appears a story taken from "The Averys of Groton," part of which is reproduced here.

> "He (Henry) drifted down to Rhode Island; studied medicine; became interested in the radical religious ideas of the Rhode Island of that day, and finally settled down to the practice of medicine in the town of Preston, Conn.
>
> "After he had achieved the purchase of a horse for use in his practice, he was in the habit of riding his horse to church regularly, a pillion being one of the trappings . . . He (Joseph Avery) owned an outlying farm, where he had cattle and hay. As fall came on, he offered his oldest son the title to this outlying farm, provided he would go and occupy a small house upon it during the coming winter, and feed, water and care for the cattle until spring. This offer the oldest son declined to accept; whereupon a younger sister, Tabitha Avery, proposed to accept the offer if she were given the opportunity, and it was arranged that she should spend the winter at the farm, for the purpose above indicated. "While so engaged she was in the habit of attending church on foot—the same church attended by the young doctor, who, taking advantage of his opportunity, offered her the use of his pillion and escort to and from the church and her residence; the eventual result being an engagement and marriage."

Preston and Southington, Connecticut

Apparently Henry and Tabitha started housekeeping in Preston, Connecticut, for their first four children were born there. It would be romantic to think that they occupied the cottage that Tabitha won by her winter's work.

In 1749, or 1750, they moved to Farmington, Connecticut, in the southernmost part of the town—now the town of Southington. (Southington secured separation from Farmington in 1779.) Dr. Henry always gave his residence as Farmington. Here he started practice as the second resident physician in the town.



The Dr. Henry Skilton House

While in Southington, Dr. Henry built the house shown above, probably between 1748 and 1760. This is the house pictured on the Skilton China and on the Ceramic Tile Hot Plate.

The house is still standing (1964) and is situated in the Plantsville section of Southington, on the east side of South Main Street. about one-fourth mile south of the intersection of South Main Street and West Main Street.

> (See "Old Houses of Connecticut, Colonial Dames Series" filed at the Connecticut State Library on January 1, 1929, and prepared by John Davis Skilton and his son, Henry Alstone Skilton.)
>
> (Only 50 copies of this book were prepared.)

Woodbury, Connecticut

About 1760. the family moved to Woodbury. Cothren says, "His residence in Woodbury was near Rock House Hill. which is a round hill a little east of Harmon Judson's dwelling house." Attempts in 1964 to locate this position more accurately have been unsuccessful.

Dr. Henry practiced medicine here for several years. While here, the Revolutionary War began and his one surviving son, Avery, was drafted for service in the Continental Army. Knowing that if Avery were killed, there would be no one to carry on the Skilton name, Dr. Henry substituted for Avery. This was common practice at the time—a draftee had the option of serving or of providing a substitute. Dr. Henry went into the army about the time of the Battle of Bunker Hill. He served initially at Roxbury Neck, Massachusetts.

The marker over his grave (see page 21) reads in part, "Surgeon and Chaplain." Attempts to discover what his rank was have so far been unsuccessful.

Membership in the D. A. R. and the S. A. R.

Any descendant of Dr. Henry Skilton is eligible for membership in one of these organizations by virtue of Dr. Henry's service in the Revolutionary War.

The same is true of any descendant of Elijah Steele. (Chloe's father)

(See pages 17, 38, 39 and 56 of the Genealogy.)

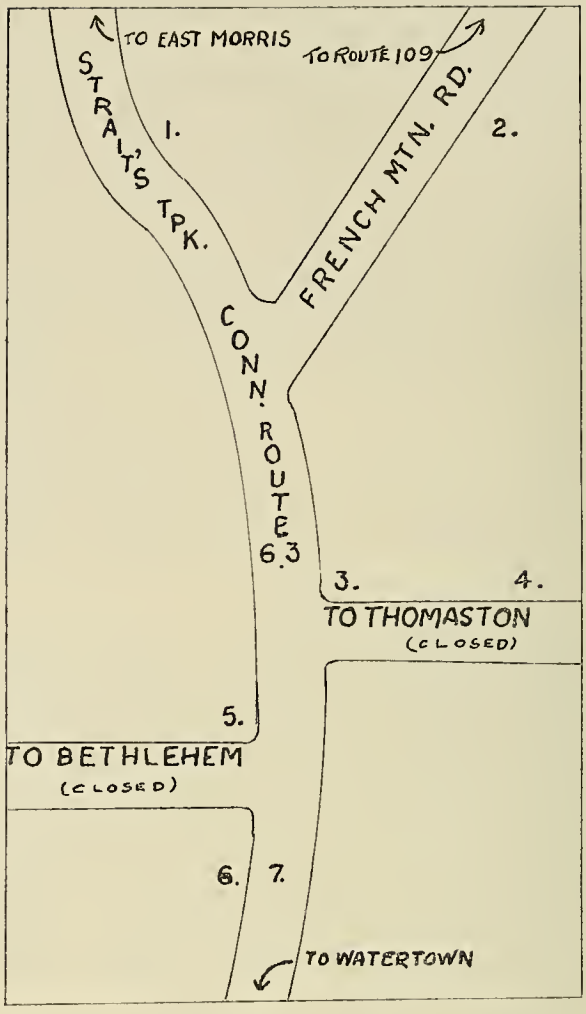
Dr. Henry's Religious Preferences

Cothren says, "Dr. Skilton's preferences in religion were for the Congregational or Calvinistic doctrine, but he did not approve some of the disciplinary customs of his brethren, nor did he accept the form of church government in use among them. Hence he became a 'Separate' and held meetings at various places, teaching his followers in the 'things of religion'. In Prospect, Connecticut, the remnant of a church of his organizing existed as late as 1831 in the person of an aged lady who still revered her former pastor's name."

In "Ecclesiastical and Other Sketches of Southington, Conn.," we read, "He is said to have organized the Separate or Strict Congregational Church in Chesher, now Prospect. While in Southington, he took an active part in the religious controversies of the time and is said to have been a warm personal friend of Mr. Merriam, the first Baptist Minister."

Watertown, Connecticut

The family moved to Watertown in 1788. Whether they moved into the house which Dr. Henry built in North Watertown, or whether he built that house after moving to Watertown is not known.



Map of North Watertown, Connecticut circa 1850

This sketch shows the roads in North Watertown about the time Dr. Henry moved there and the location of the buildings then in existence or built within the next fifty years.

Explanation

Strait's Turnpike was a toll road between New Haven and Litchfield. (1797)

(1) The Captain James Skilton Homestead, approximately one-half mile south of the Morris-Watertown Town Line and one-fourth mile north of the old Toll Gate. (7)

(2) The Avery Skilton Homestead, on what used to be called the French Mountain Road (in 1964, this road is marked "Morris Town Line Highway,") approximately one-fourth mile north of the old Toll Gate (7) and almost due east of the Captain James Skilton Homestead. (1)

(3) The French Mountain District Schoolhouse —in 1964, a dwelling. (There was no schoolhouse here during Dr. Henry's lifetime. It was built in or shortly after 1854.)

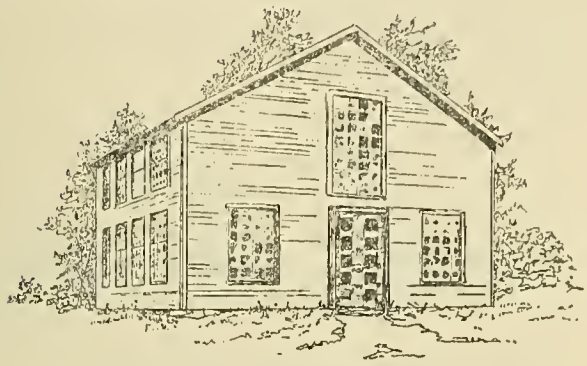
(4) The Dr. Henry Skilton House, on the north side of a road which went east from Strait's Turnpike to Thomaston (long since closed) and a few hundred feet east of the Schoolhouse. (3) (When I was a youngster, my father pointed out a huge bunch of lilacs and told me that was where Dr. Henry's house stood. In 1964, the lilacs are still there.)

(5) The Old North Methodist Church.

(6) The Old Toll House. At one time, David L. Munn operated the Toll Gate. His daughter, Wealthy Maria, was the first wife of George Frederick Skilton, the 9th Tooth of the Rake.

(7) The Old Toll Gate.

In 1964, (1) is owned by Mrs. Pauline Canfield; (2) and (3) by Mr. Martin Davidson; (4), (5), (6), and (7) disappeared long ago.



The Old North Methodist Church
North Watertown, Connecticut

Although Methodist services were held in North Watertown as early as 1800, a Church was not built until 1838. It is said that Captain James Skilton "built one corner" of this Church. The Church stood on the northwest corner (5) of a now abandoned road to Bethlehem and just north of the old Toll House. (6)

The Church was dedicated on December 11, 1838, by the presiding Elder, Fitch Read, who "preached an able sermon to a full house." Services were held here for some time after the new Methodist Church was built in the center of Watertown in 1854. The old Church was torn down sometime after 1854 and its location is marked (1964) by a tablet erected by the D. A. R.

The French Mountain Schoolhouse

In 1854, a Charles Treat owned the land on which Dr. Henry's house stood and possibly the house as well. It is not known when the house was torn down. On October 24, 1854, he deeded a strip of land, four rods square, "bounded north and east on my own land, south on the highway (the Thomaston road, now abandoned) and west on Strait's Turnpike road" to the French Mountain School District for a schoolhouse. (Editor's comment: they allowed very little room for a school yard in those days.)

Death of Tabitha and Dr. Henry

Tabitha died at Watertown on October 15, 1797. Dr. Henry died there on either June 6th or 7th, 1802. (The tombstone says June 6. Record says June 7.) Both were buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown.

(See page 21), Marker over the Grave of DR. HENRY SKILTON.

References

"History of Ancient Woodbury, Connecticut, From the First Indian Deed in 1659 to 1854," by William Cothren, Waterbury, Conn. Published by Bronson Bros. 1854.

"Ecclesiastical and Other Sketches of Southington, Conn.," by the Reverend Heman R. Timlow, Hartford, Conn., 1875. Dr. Henry Skilton.

"The Averys of Groton—Genealogical and Biographical" by Homer de Lois Sweet, 1894. Syracuse, N.Y.

"The Groton Avery Clan" by Elroy McKendree Avery and Catharine Hitchcock (Tilden) Avery. (No. 3112) Cleveland, 1912, two volumes.

Dr. Henry's Family

Eight children were born to Dr. Henry and Tabitha, four at Preston, Connecticut, and four at Farmington, Connecticut. Infant mortality and child mortality ran high in those days. Only three children lived to maturity.

Lucy, born April 5, 1742, at Preston, Conn., died April 17, 1758, at Farmington, Conn.

Elizabeth, born February 11, 1743, at Preston, Conn., died there on September 1, 1749.

Mary, born February 12, 1746, at Preston, Conn., died June 12, 1830, at Watertown, Conn.
(See below, "Mary Skilton—the Atwoods.")

Avery, our Ancestor, born April 30, 1748, at Preston, Conn., died August 27, 1832, at Watertown, Conn.

James, born June 1, 1749, at Farmington, Conn., died there, October 26, 1755.

Tabitha (I), born August 26, 1752, at Farmington, Conn., died there July 28, 1753.

Tabitha (II), born November 20, 1754, at Farmington, Conn., died there November 27, 1755.

Sarah, born April 11, 1757, at Farmington, Conn., died at Genesee, N. Y., either November 30, 1793 or December 29, 1793.

(See below, "Sarah Skilton—the Richards.")
(See page 25 of the Genealogy for further information.)

Mary Skilton—the Atwoods

Mary, the third child of Dr. Henry and Tabitha, married Elisha Atwood. The Genealogy records many generations of the Atwood relatives. In 1948, the Skilton Family decided to collect and publish vital statistics on only the descendants of Captain James and Chloe Steele Skilton, so vital statistics on the Atwood relatives have not appeared in our records since that time.

Sarah Skilton—the Richards

Sarah, the eighth child, married Abraham Richards. It is recorded that they had two children, but we have no knowledge of any subsequent descendants.

(See page 26 of the Genealogy.)

Avery Skilton—the Judds

When Avery married Parthenia Judd, at Preston, Connecticut, on March 26, 1771, another noted family was linked with the Skiltons. Parthenia was of the sixth generation of Judds; Avery, the third of the Skiltons.

Parthenia[6] Judd, Timothy, William, Thomas, William, Thomas[1].

Thomas Judd came from England in 1633 or 1634 and settled in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on the highway leading to Watertown. He moved to Hartford in 1636. He was one of the first proprietors and settlers of Farmington, Connecticut, moving there around 1644.

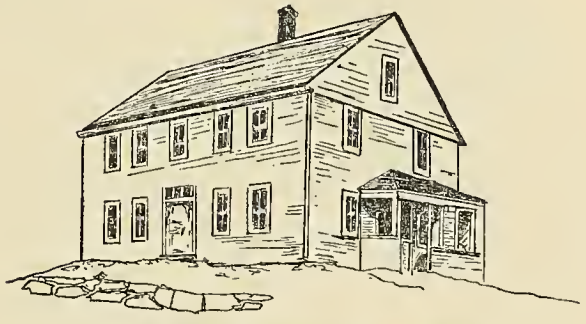
The surname Judd is one of the oldest English surnames and is identical with Jude, an old and now almost obsolete personal name. Judson and Judkins are formed from the same name.

There are two coats of arms of the Judd family, plainly of the same origin and indicating relationship. Descendants of Avery and Parthenia are, of course, entitled to the coat of arms to which Parthenia and her parents were entitled.

Timothy Judd, Parthenia's father, served in the Revolutionary War.

See "Thomas Judd and His Descendants," by Sylvester Judd of Northampton, Mass. Printed by J. & L. Metcalf, 1856.
(See pages 29-39 incl. of the Genealogy.)

Avery and Parthenia lived in Bethlehem, Connecticut from 1772 to 1791, and perhaps for a longer period. The exact location of their home is unknown. All of their children were born in Bethlehem. They had apparently moved to Watertown by 1822, for their unmarried daughter (presumably living with them) died at Watertown on December 4 or December 25, 1822. There is confusion regarding both her name and the date of her death. The Genealogy gives her name as Polly and her date of death as December 4. The Old Burying Ground records use the name of Mary and her date of death as December 25, 1822.



The Avery Skilton Homestead
North Watertown, Connecticut

(See Map of North Watertown on page 3.)

This house was probably built by either Dr. Henry or his son, Avery. Carrie May Skilton thought that Dr. Henry built it about the same time his own house was built in North Watertown, referred to in deeds as "on the same lot."

In later years it came to be known as the George French place, for the French family lived there. It is quite likely that this was the French family whose name has been perpetuated in the "French Mountain District" of North Watertown.

The Avery Skilton house was the first home of James George Skilton and his wife, Eliza Abigail (Judson) Skilton. James was the grandson of Captain James and the son of George Frederick Skilton, the 9th Tooth of the Rake.

Several years ago when my wife and I were driving to our summer home in Morris, Connecticut, we met the Morris Fire Department which turned down Strait's Turnpike from East Morris. We followed it and to our sorrow saw the last of the Avery Skilton House. It was completely enveloped in flames and could not be saved. It saddened us to think that one more landmark of the Skilton Family was no more.

A house has since been erected on the same foundation.

Avery Skilton's Family

Avery and Parthenia had seven children, all born in Bethlehem, Connecticut.

Melicent, born October 5, 1772; died May 25, 1839, at Watertown. She married Anthony Guernsey and died without issue.

James, our ancestor, born April 10, 1777; died April 9, 1848, at Watertown, Connecticut.

Lucy, born July 21, 1780; died March 4, 1855, at Watertown. (Date of death is recorded differently in different places.) She married Jessie Hine. They had two children, both of whom died unmarried.

Henry, born July 17, 1783; died August 5, 1847, at South Farms, Litchfield, Connecticut. (now Morris)

(See below, "Henry Skilton's Family.")

Polly, or Mary, born May 22, 1786; died December 4 or 25, 1822, at Watertown; unmarried.

Parthenia, or Parthena, born October 2, 1788; died September 12, 1830, at Lyons, New York. She married Cyrus Avery, of the Groton Averys. They had children and grandchildren, but we have lost all track of this family.

Tabitha, born May 2, 1791; died October 30, 1878, at Morris, Connecticut; unmarried.

Parthenia Judd was born at Watertown, Connecticut, August 6, 1754 and died there, March 30, 1839. Avery died August 27, 1832, at Watertown. Both were buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown.

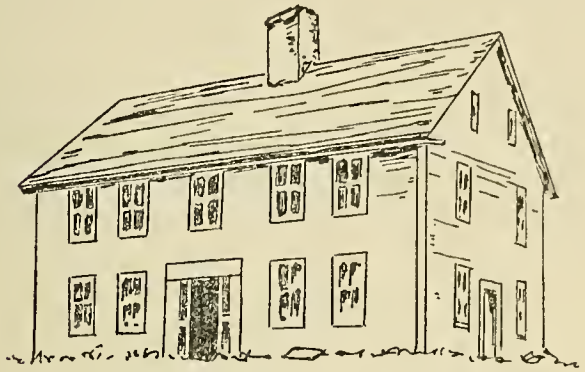
Henry Skilton's Family (son of Avery, grandson of Dr. Henry.)

Henry Skilton's first wife was Martha Baldwin. She lived only a few years after their marriage. There were no children. She was buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown.

His second wife was Maria Marshall. They had eight children, all recorded in the Genealogy. Seven of these children married, five of those marriages resulting in children. We have lost touch with some of these families. Henry and Maria were buried in the East Morris Cemetery, Morris, Connecticut.

Their last child, Otis Avery Skilton, had three children, one of whom was Charles Sanford Skilton, Professor of Organ and Dean of the School of Fine Arts of the University of Kansas. His American Indian music, which he painstakingly recorded from Indian performances, has received universal acclaim. Recordings by Arthur Fiedler are now a collector's item.

One of the grandchildren married William Wallace Kimball, of the Kimball Organ Company, in Chicago, Illinois. Raphael Marshall Skilton, the seventh child of Henry and Maria Marshall, presented the Morris (Connecticut) Congregational Church, in 1909, with a Kimball Pipe Organ in memory of his parents whose home in later years was in Morris.



The Captain James Skilton Homestead,
North Watertown, Connecticut

This house was built by Captain James Skilton in 1801. The date "1801" is cut into the timber on the inside just over the outside door in the "long room."

(See Map of North Watertown, on page 3.)

This house is almost a duplicate of the Avery Skilton House, with these differences:

There was no overhang above the second floor of the Avery House;

The front door of the Avery House had five little lights above the door, while in the Captain James House, there were no lights above the door, but there were narrow lights on either side of the door;

There were two windows in each end of the attic of the Captain James House, while in the Avery House there was only one window in each end.

Captain James Skilton—the Steeles

Another noted family was linked with the Skiltons when Captain James married Chloe Steele, at Watertown, Connecticut, on June 30, 1799. Chloe was of the seventh generation of Steeles; Captain James, the fourth of the Skiltons.

Chloe[7] Steele, Elijah, James, Joseph, James, Samuel, John[1] Steel.

John Steel, born in Essex County, England, came to New England about 1631-2. He settled first in New Town (now Cambridge), Massachusetts, then moved to Hartford and Farmington, Connecticut.

(See pages 49-61 of the Genealogy.)
See "A Genealogical History of John and George Steele (Settlers of Hartford, Conn.) 1635-6, and their Descendants," by Daniel Steele Durrie, Librarian of Wisconsin State Historical Society, Albany. Munsell & Rowland, 78 State Street, 1859.

Elijah Steele, Chloe's father, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

It is not known where Captain James and Chloe went to housekeeping in Watertown, nor where in Watertown their first child, Elijah Steele Skilton, was born. Their other nine children were born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead. In fact, three generations of Skiltons were born there: George Frederick, the 9th Tooth of the Rake; James George, his son; and Ada May, daughter of James George.

The house passed out of Skilton hands in 1895. It is still standing. (1964)

Captain James was deeply interested in genealogical matters, and, being a man with an extraordinary memory, he carried the genealogy of almost the whole town of Watertown in his head, and to his dying day was recognized as an authority on local genealogy. He was Captain of the local militia and was generally known as Captain James Skilton.

Theirs was a deeply religious family and their children adhered closely to their religious beliefs.

Captain James died on April 9, 1848, at Watertown and was buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown.

Chloe Steele was born in the Elijah Steele Homestead in Watertown on October 2, 1780 and died at the home of her grandson, Artison Skilton Clark, in Middlebury, Connecticut, on April 30, 1867. Her son, George Frederick, had purchased lots in the new cemetery in Watertown—Evergreen Cemetery—and she was laid to rest there. At this time or shortly thereafter, the remains of Captain James were removed from the Old Burying Ground and placed beside his wife in Evergreen Cemetery.

At the 28th Reunion in 1893, we read "Action was taken in regard to providing a monument to mark the burial places of James and Chloe Skilton at Evergreen Cemetery, Watertown." There is such a monument.

The Elijah Steele Homestead
Watertown, Connecticut

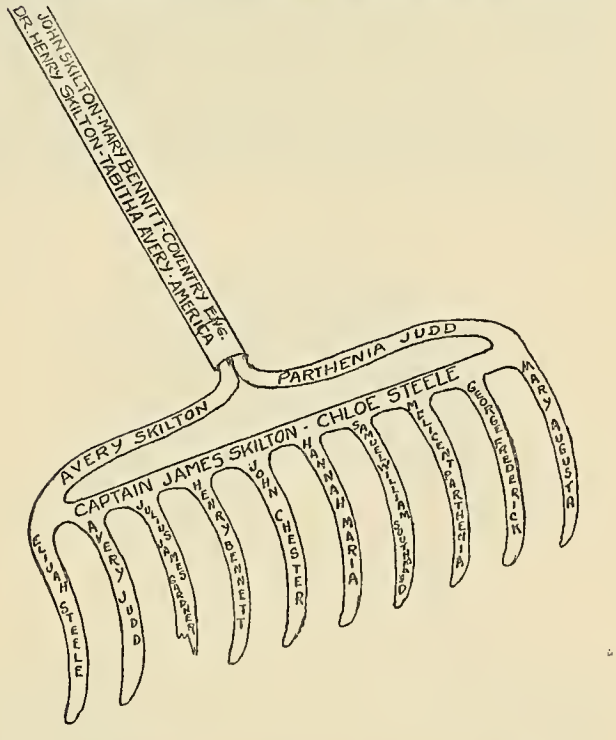
This house is located on Guernseytown Road, Watertown, about one-tenth of a mile north of the junction of Skilton Road and Guernseytown Road. Although the house has been remodeled, it still bears the lines it had when Chloe was a youngster there.

A Tribute to Grandmother Chloe

The following was written on February 21, 1918, by her grandson, Artison Skilton Clark, at that time the person best able to recall memories of "Grandmother Chloe."

"Chloe (Steele) Skilton, wife of Captain James Skilton, was a woman with marked force of character which exhibited itself in all the details of the home life, as well as in all the activities with which she was connected. The mother of ten children, her sphere was largely in the home where economy and executive ability were ever apparent. Her children, with the exception of Elijah, the oldest, were born at the Skilton Homestead in the French Mountain district, North Watertown, in a house built for the young couple in 1801 and still standing at this date. (1918)

"She was a woman commanding the love of all who knew her, kindly, sympathetic, attending all the needs of her numerous family with time to spare for aid and sympathy extended to sick and needy ones outside. Truly many there will be who will 'rise up and call her blessed'. It was my privilege to know her intimately the last few years of her life, as they were spent in my own home in Middlebury. As I look back to those years, I am impressed with her marked personality. She was possessed of a never failing fund of humor which presented itself when relating incidents which occurred during her entire life. She was a Christian of the sincerest type and her children reflected in their lives the influence which her precept and example had upon them. She was uncomplaining while bearing the severe infirmities of age, ever resting in the belief that everything was for the best. She was exceedingly fond of receiving visits from the various members of the family and could entertain them in a remarkably easy and courteous manner. The First Family Reunion was held at her home in Middlebury and no one of the numerous relatives and friends present enjoyed the occasion more than she. She was a true type of the sturdy New England Puritan stock and made a place for herself in the Skilton Family which has left its stamp."



Genealogical Sketches of the Teeth

Brief genealogical sketches of the Ten Teeth of the Rake follow. Some of the information has been taken from the Genealogy; some from the articles in Aunt Julia's Scrap Book (see page 18); some from other sources; and some from personal knowledge of the Editor. A descendant of each Tine has audited the sketches and some have volunteered additional information.

Note: The number beneath each tine refers to the child in question. Thus a "1" indicates the first child, Elijah Steele; a "2", the second child, Avery Judd; etc. This number is also the first part of the current Grand Number.

1. *ELIJAH STEELE SKILTON*

Born at Watertown, Connecticut, May 17, 1800; died at Ravenna, Ohio, January 4, 1873; buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Ravenna.

The Elijah Steele Skilton Homestead is at 7588 Peck Road, Ravenna, Ohio; six-tenths of a mile off State Route 88. It was built in 1858. Prior to that time, the family lived in a log cabin built by Elijah.

The Elijah Steele Skilton Homestead
Ravenna, Ohio

Elijah Steele married (1st) Elizabeth Wilson on April 1, 1827, at Hunter, Greene County, New York. They went to housekeeping in Watertown, Connecticut where their first three children were born. In 1883, they moved to Ohio—the "New Connecticut"—as one of the early settlers of the Connecticut Western Reserve. Elijah purchased a farm in the northwest part of Ravenna, then a wilderness, which he cleared and cultivated. He lived to see the forest leveled and the wilderness bringing forth fruit and grain in abundance.

Their fourth and fifth children were born at Ravenna.

Elizabeth was born at Hunter, Greene County, New York, on March 5, 1805; died at Ravenna, Ohio, October 3, 1836; buried in Maple Grove Cemetery there.

Their children:

Lucy Cornelia (or Lucy Charlotte) married Silas French.

John Wilson married Eliza A. Hull and Emily D. Mulkey.

Jeannette Parthenia married Henry French, a brother of Silas French.

Melicent Guernsey died unmarried.

Alvah Stone married Amanda Jane Davis.

Alvah Stone Skilton enlisted in the Union Army in 1861. He was commissioned a Captain and was wounded almost immediately at the Battle of Shiloh. In 1864 he was captured by the Confederates and imprisoned for the duration of the war. It is said that he was a prisoner in thirteen Confederate prisons.

After the war he married Amanda Jane Davis, from another family with a long and distinguished ancestry. Ingleside, their home in Monroeville, Ohio, is the present home (1964) of their daughter, Catharine Amanda Skilton. A picture of the house appears on page 186 of the Genealogy.

Their only son, John Davis Skilton, was the Editor of the Family Genealogy, "Dr. Henry Skilton and His Descendants." This has been referred to by the Family as "The Cyclopeedy." (See page 19.) John *earned* the degrees of A.B., A.M., B.D., and S.T.D. He was an Episcopal clergyman and was Headmaster of various secondary schools.

On March 20, 1838, Elijah married (2nd) Sarah Remington, a widow, who died at Ravenna, Ohio, September 3, 1854, without issue.

On October 13, 1856, he married (3rd) Eliza Wilcutt and six children were born to them. Many of the descendants of these children live in or near Ravenna today.

Their childreu:

Elijah Steele, Jr., married Isabella Breese.
Avery James married Lottie Wilder Davis.
Chloe Eva Eliza married Charles Frederick Rautenberg.
Charlotte Augusta married Cassius Pembrook Thompson.
Emily May married Frank Ellsworth Fuller.
Royal Worthy married Della Heeter.

The Ravenna relatives have emulated the example set by Grandmother Chloe by holding their own Reunion. This preccdeut might well be copied by other braneches.

Eliza died at Ravenna, Ohio on January 3, 1902 and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery there.

In the Elijah Skilton lot in Maple Grove Cemetery in Ravenna, Ohio, there are four graves side by side. At the extreme right is the grave of Elijah. The stone reads:

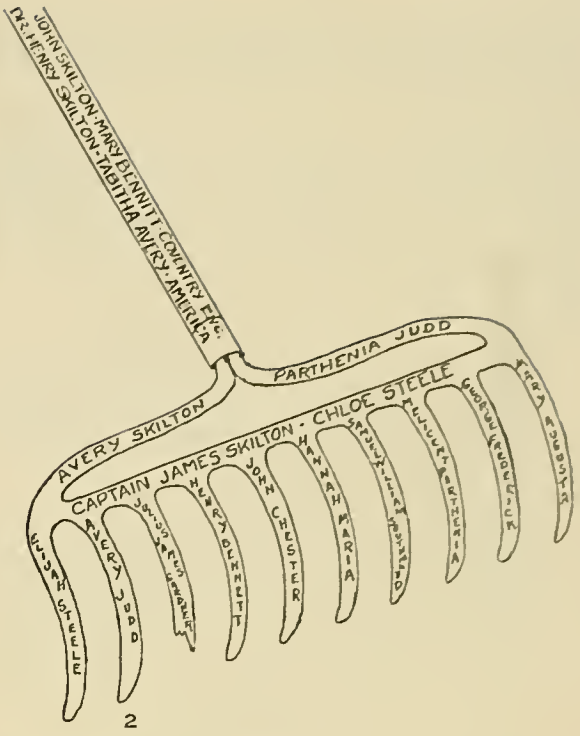
Elijah S. Skilton
died
Jan. 4, 1873
aged 72 years

At the left is the grave of Elizabeth Wilson Skilton. The stone is small and short, reading — "Elizabeth."

The next one to the left has no stone. The Cemetery records show that this is the grave of Melicent, the fourth child of Elijah aud Elizabeth.

At the extreme left is the grave of Eliza Wilcutt Skilton. The stone bears the naiue "Eliza Fields" and the dates "1825-1902". Evelyn Monroe told me that after the death of Elijah, Eliza married again, acquiring the uame of Fields, which explains the heretofore unknown name in the Skilton lot.

(See pages 89-92 of the Cyclopeedy.)



2. AVERY JUDD SKILTON, M.D.

Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, February 1, 1802; died at Troy, New York, March 20, 1858; buried in Oakwood Cemetery, Troy, New York.

Avery was the first Skilton to earn a college degree. He graduated from Yale Medical School in 1827 and began the practice of medicine in Troy, New York. He is said to have had the largest private practice of any physician in Troy. His obstetric cases alone exceeded 3500.

His marriage at Oxford, Connecticut, on March 2, 1828, to Mary Augusta Candee made another connection with a distinguished family. For the paternal and maternal ancestral charts of Avery, see pages 96 and 97 of the Cyclopeedy; of Mary Candee, pages 100 and 101.

Mary was born at New Haven, Connecticut, on January 30, 1804; died at Troy, New York, on May 14, 1865; buried in Oakwood Cemetery there.

Avery was physically unfitted for manual labor and turned to medicine as a vocation. His associates described him as "an accomplished physician and surgeon, a studeut of genealogy, a man of high character, intelligence and professional standards."

He was an enthusiastic linguist and genealogist. Few men in this country have contributed more to historical and antiquarian research. As a linguist, he traced language to its roots and became familiar with between 50 and 60 languages, many of which had been out of current use for centuries. He was also an enthusiastic student of natural history.

His obituary says in part: "A Christian influence governed every action of his life—in every sense of the word an entire Christian."

Mary Augusta nursed Chloe Steele Skilton upon the birth of the latter's last child, who, in appreciation was named Mary Augusta.

Avery and Mary had nine children, three of whom died of scarlet fever in early childhood. Three sons were graduated from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut: James Avery, Julius Augustus and Charles Candee, the last a member of Phi Beta Kappa. George Steele, another son, graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

Their Children:

James Avery married Sarah Agnes Sheppard and Julia Serena (Davis) Bishopric. He was a genealogist who secured valuable data regarding the family genealogy, including copies of records from Saint Michael's Church in Coventry, England.

Mary Tabitha married Henry Lyman Palmer.

Julius Augustus married Harriet Euphrasia Ingersoll. He was a prominent surgeon in the Civil War, and, after the war, was appointed Consul to Mexico. His daughter, Mary Kate, married William Thomas Geyer, a direct descendant on his father's side of the famous Paul Revere.

Charles Candee married Fannie (Markel) Hopkins.

Julia Augusta died in childhood.

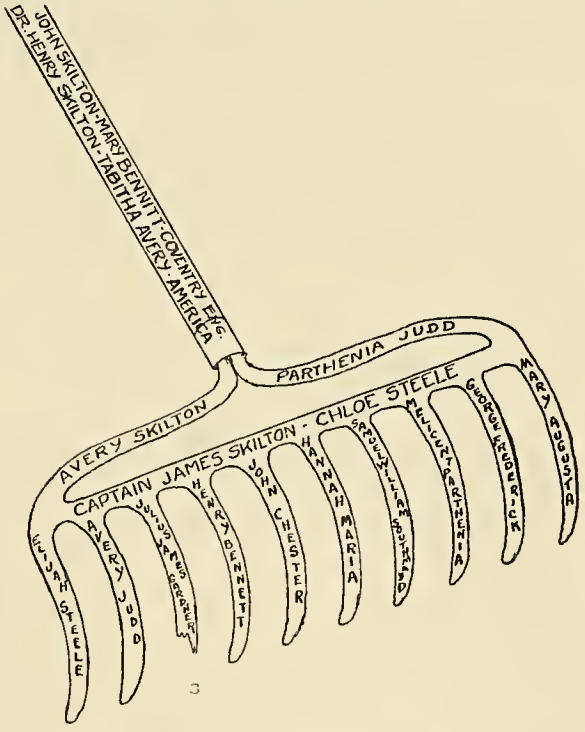
Juliette Augustine died in childhood.

George Steele married Adah Sawyer Gould. He was a noted Civil Engineer and a Vice Consul to Mexico. His genealogical records were most helpful in preparing the Cyclopeedy.

Ella Frances married Alexander Bower Plough and George Bennett Coggswell.

Kitty Josephine died in childhood.

(See pages 92-102 incl. of the Cyclopeedy.)

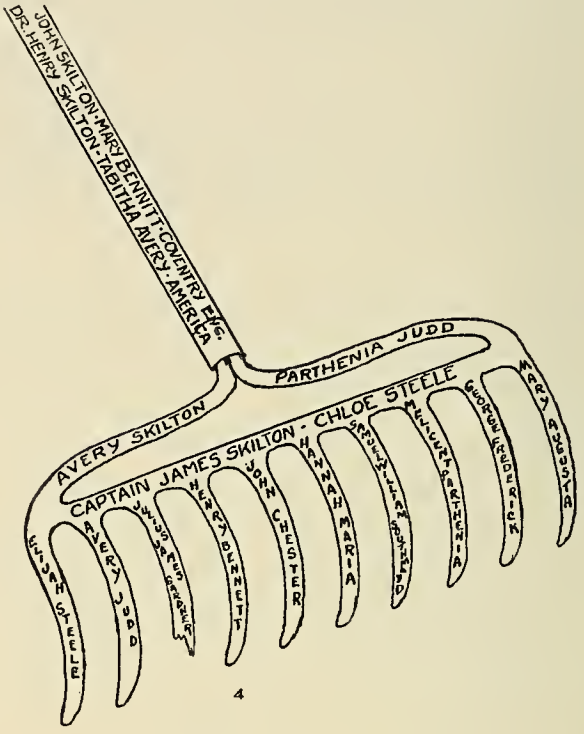


3. *JULIUS JAMES GARDNER SKILTON*

Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, June 24, 1804; died at Troy, New York, August 17, 1858; buried there.

Julius remained a bachelor. The Cyclopeedy merely mentions his birth and death. Little is known about him now. In the Reunion Report for 1890, his brother, George Frederick Skilton, said, "He was a constable in one of the cities of the state of New York and was fearless in the performance of his dutics."

4. *HENRY BENNETT SKILTON*



Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, August 29, 1806; died at Watertown on March 13, 1894; buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Watertown.

It was while he was teaching school in Prospect, Connecticut, that Henry met Julia Clark. They were married at Prospect on November 19, 1832. She lived less than four years after their marriage, leaving two small children.

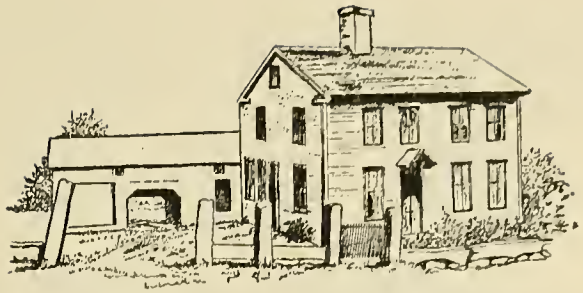
Henry and Julia went to housekeeping at the Elijah Steele Homestead in Watertown (see page 6), where they cared for Grandmother Steele and her brother, Jonathan, for a few years.

Julia was born at the Merit Clark Homestead in Prospect, Connecticut, (see page 14), on March 4, 1811; died at Watertown on June 14, 1836; buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street.

Children of Henry and Julia:

Merritt Clark married Sarah Ann Nichols.
Julius James married Emily Amelia Bryan and Jane Lois Barnes.

On November 19, 1838, Henry married (2nd) Julia's younger sister, Emily. They lived together for more than fifty years. Ten children were born to them and Emily brought up Julia's two sons as well.



The Henry Bennett Skilton Homestead
Watertown, Connecticut

In 1857, Henry and Emily bought the Homestead shown above. It is located on Skilton Road in the Guernseytown section of Watertown, about six-tenths of a mile west of the junction of Skilton Road and Guernseytown Road. After the death of Henry and Emily, two of their sons, John Hine and George Avery, as well as their granddaughter, Edith May, continued to live here for several years. The house passed out of the Skilton hands some years ago. It is still standing. (1964)

Henry followed farming most of his life. He was closely connected with the Episcopal Church. His obituary reads in part: "He was a man respected and honored in the town in which he lived, filling several important offices. He was a man of strong convictions and with moral courage to carry out the same; strong for the right and quick to rebuke the wrong."

Emily was born at the Merit Clark Homestead in Prospect, Connecticut, on June 12, 1822; died at Watertown on December 4, 1908; buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Watertown.

Julia[8]
Gould[8]
Merit[8]
Emily[8]

} Clark, Merit[7], Isaac[6], Isaac[5], Thomas[4], Samuel[3], Thomas[2] George[1].

George Clark was born in England in 1610. He was one of the first settlers of Milford, Connecticut, in 1639.

Children of Henry and Emily:

Henry Clay married Margaret Jane Simpson.

Brownell Gould married Emily Augusta Page.

Charles Bennett died unmarried.

Julia Emily died unmarried.

Sarah Antoinette died unmarried.

John Steele died in childhood.

John Hine died unmarried.

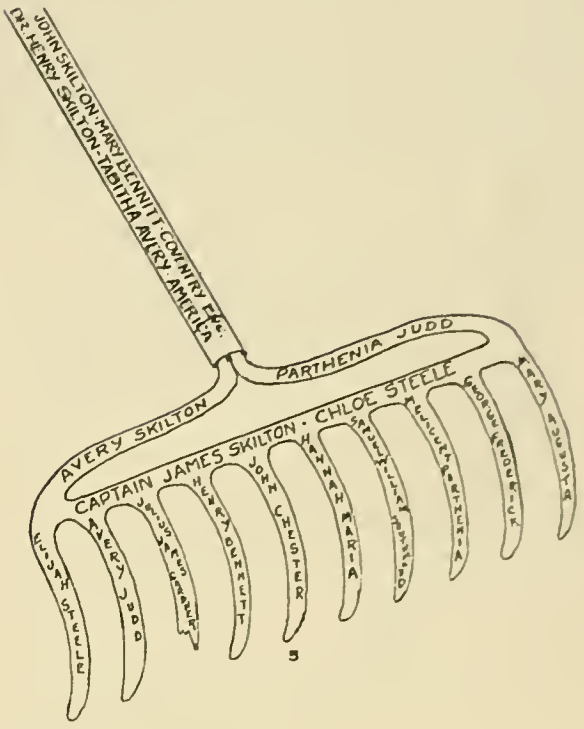
Cyrus Anthony married Lydia Anna White.

George Avery died unmarried.

Eugene Smith married Emma Gertrude Butler.

(See pages 102-111 incl. of the Cyclopeedy.)

5. *JOHN CHESTER SKILTON*



Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, on April 30, 1809; died at Plymouth, Connecticut, December 29, 1851; buried in Spring Grove Cemetery, Hartford, Conn.

John's mind ran to machinery—delicate machinery—not to farming. He worked for Terry and Thomas, clockmakers, in Plymouth (probably in what is now Terryville) and, when the firm was dissolved, he went to work for Seth Thomas in Plymouth Hollow, Connecticut. (now Thomaston)

He married Anna Heaton at Northfield, Connecticut, May 6, 1834, another person with an outstanding ancestry. When their first child, Anna Heaton Skilton, married Ira Watkins, they founded the Watkins clan.

Their second child, DeWitt Clinton Skilton, was a successful insurance executive, eventually becoming President of the Phoenix (Fire) Insurance Company.

After John's death, Anna trained for hospital work. In the report of the 26th Reunion in 1891, we read: "During the war of the rebellion, she did heroic work as a hospital nurse at Alexandria, Virginia and at Beaufort, South Carolina; her strong nerve and resolution admirably fitting her for this kind of work. She may well be remembered among the heroines of the war."

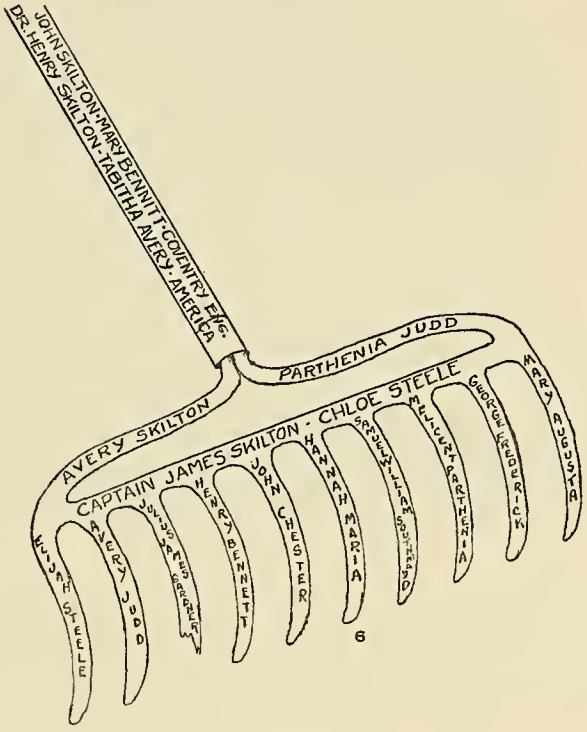
She had charge of the hospital at Beaufort, caring for the soldiers in General Sherman's Army.

Anna was born at Northfield, Connecticut, February 18, 1810; died at Hartford, July 14, 1891; buried there. She was the daughter of Levi Heaton and Anna Guernsey. Levi was descended from Abram Heaton, the first Civil Governor of Connecticut. The names of the first Civil and Religious Governors, Heaton and Davenport, are in large letters on the front of the "Church on the Green," in New Haven, Conn.

Anna Guernsey was descended from John Guernsey who emigrated from the Island of Guernsey, in 1638.

John and Anna's children:

Anna Heaton married Ira Watkins.
De Witt Clinton married Ann Jeanette Andrews.
Chloe Cornelia died unmarried.
(See pages 111-113 of the Cyclopeedy.)



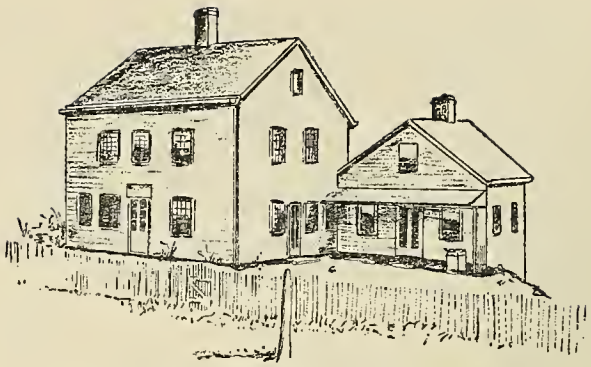
6. *HANNAH MARIA SKILTON*

Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, February 4, 1812; died at Middlebury, Connecticut, January 18, 1897; buried there.

After reaching young womanhood, Hannah, usually called Maria, lived some two years with her brother, Avery, in Troy, New York. While there, she attended Miss Willard's School, thus preparing for a career as a school teacher.

She taught school at Prospect, Connecticut, and there became acquainted with Gould Clark. Her brother, Henry, had married one of the Clark girls, Julia, about the time that she started teaching, so the families were acquainted. It is not surprising, therefore, that she should decide to become another link in the Skilton-Clark chain.

On March 22, 1840, she married Gould Smith Clark at Watertown, Connecticut. Two years later they moved to a new farm in Middlebury, Connecticut, where she lived for the rest of her life. The Homestead, pictured above and on page 36 of the Cyclopeedy, was destroyed by fire many years ago.



The Gould Smith Clark Homestead
Middlebury, Connecticut

Gould represented his town in the General Assembly several times. A man of even, quiet temperament, he was held in great esteem by his acquaintances, and he filled various important positions in the town.

Little was reported in the early days about the women, merely that they were good wives and mothers. It is obvious that their strong characters and deep religious motives helped mould the strong family ties.

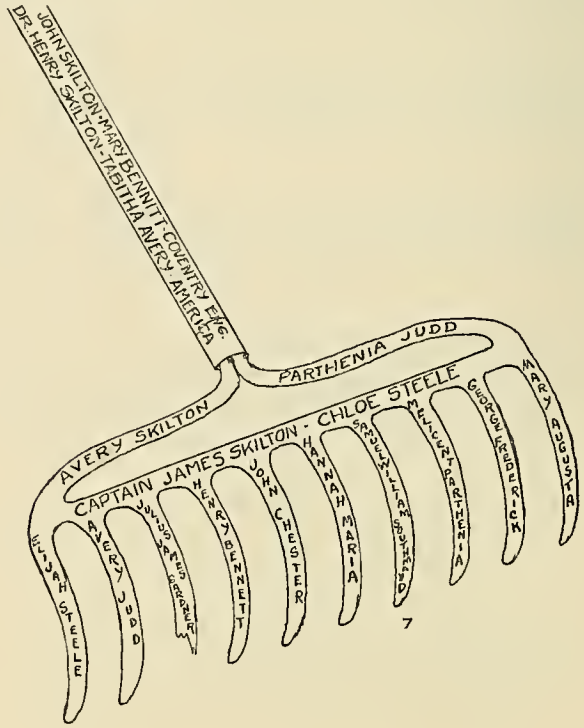
Gould was born at the Merit Clark Homestead in Prospect, Connecticut, (see page 14), March 12, 1814; died at Middlebury, Connecticut, November 17, 1899; buried there.

Their children:

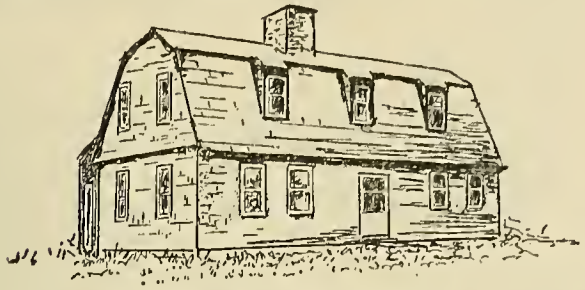
Julia Maria died unmarried.
Emily Elizabeth died unmarried.
Artison Skilton married Lilian Augusta Chamberlin.
(See pages 113-115 of the Cyclopeedy.)

7. *SAMUEL WILLIAM SOUTHMAYD SKILTON*

Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, June 20, 1814; died at Morris, Connecticut, April 23, 1894; buried in East Morris Cemetery.



Samuel finished his formal education at the old Morris Academy. Then he taught school for nearly twenty years in several Connecticut towns including Oxford and Morris. While teaching in Oxford, he met Mary White. They were married in New Haven, Connecticut, November 26, 1846.



The Samuel William Southmayd Skilton Homestead
Morris, Connecticut

He farmed for a while in Woodbridge, Connecticut, and then moved to Morris. Here he bought Prospect Farm from a Mr. Marchant. This was located in the South Farms section of Litchfield. The Homestead is still in the family, being operated in 1964 by a great-grandson, Avery Skilton. It is located on South Street, a short distance south of Conn. Route 109.

The 29th Reunion Report in 1894 says of Samuel: "He invented as early as 1847 the system of scholar rating and merit card, now usually adopted in all of the better class of schools."

Today he would be called a market gardener. From his successful farm, a large and remunerative business was carried on with weekly deliveries to Waterbury, winning prominence as one of the early men in Connecticut in this business.

Civic interests were a part of his life, for he held various offices and served on the local school board for many years.

Fishing was his "love," especially if accompanied by his younger brother, George. Many an anecdote is told of their fishing prowess. This fishing habit was so ingrained in the family that it has persisted into the second and third generations. One son, Truman, founded his own fishing tackle business which was continued by his sons as a family business.

The story is told that prior to Samuel's birth, a Colonel Southmayd did some favor for Captain James, refusing remuneration therefor. In appreciation, the word "Southmayd" appeared as part of the name of the Captain's next son.

Mary was an ardent advocate of missions. She used to pick berries in the hot sun—particularly the small, wild, sweet strawberries—to get money for "her favorite charity." She made and took bed quilts to many a country fair and won many prizes, this money too going for the same cause.

The last four years of her life she was totally deaf.

Part of an obituary reads: "She was a loving daughter, a true friend, a kind sister, a devoted wife and an excellent mother. She was one of those rare individuals of whom it is said that she never spoke ill of anyone. She was a poet of brilliance."

Mary was born on November 14, 1829, probably at Salem (now Naugatuck), Connecticut. No town clerk can be found who admits of a record of her birth. She died at Morris on February 11, 1904 and was buried in the East Morris Cemetery in Morris.

Mary was a descendant of Elder John White, one of the first settlers of Cambridge, Massachusetts and of Hartford, Connecticut. He sailed from England in the ship "Lyon" about June 22, 1632, arriving at Boston, September 16, 1632.

(See "John White and Descendants," by Allyn S. Kellogg. Case, Lockwood and Company, 1860.)

Their children:

William Steele died in childhood.
Joel White (I) died in childhood.
Truman Smith married Mariette Emma Webster.
Joel White (II) married Ida Florilla Camp.
Robert William married Alice Carrie Kilborn.

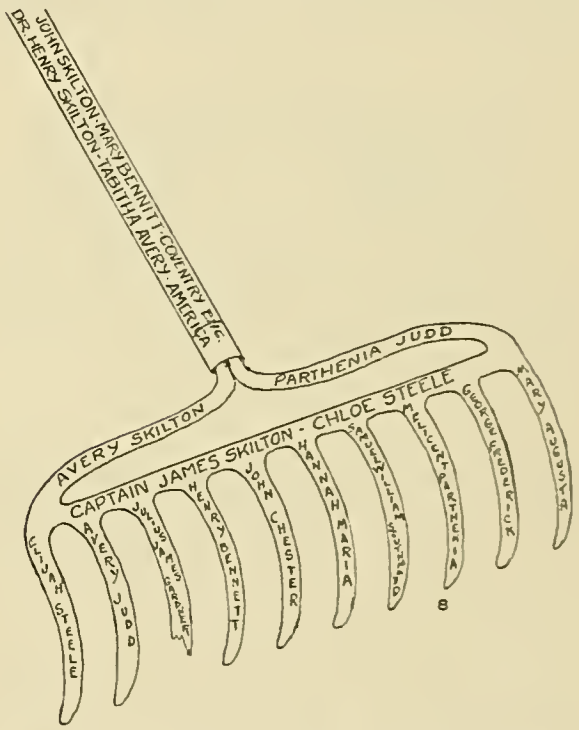
On July 1, 1917, my father, Joel White Skilton, wrote:

"Truman Smith Skilton and myself, brothers, were born in South Farms, Litchfield, while Robert William Skilton, brother, was born in Morris, Conn., all in the same house."

The South Farms section of Litchfield became the town of Morris in 1859.

(See pages 115-117 incl. of the Cyclopeedy.)

8. *MELICENT PARTHENIA SKILTON*



Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, December 24, 1816; died at Herrick, Pennsylvania, March 1, 1904; buried in East Herrick, Pennsylvania.

Melicent was educated at the Emma Willard Seminary, (Troy Female Seminary) in Troy, New York, after which she taught school for several years. She was a woman of considerable culture and education and was very precise in her use of the English language.

On December 27, 1842, at Watertown, Connecticut, she married (1st) the Reverend Ebenezer Osborne Beers, then Pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Middlebury, Connecticut. In less than five years, her husband died of typhoid fever, leaving her with two small boys.

Ebenezer was born June 24, 1818 and died at Middlebury on February 10, 1847. The Cyclopeedy says that he was buried in Middlebury, but the records of the Old Burying Ground in Watertown seem to dispute that statement.

"The Old Burying Ground of Ancient Westbury and Present Watertown, Conn.," published in 1938 by the Sarah Whitman Trumbull Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, shows a grave for Ebenezer in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown. It is grave 506 and the tombstone reads:

"DIED in Middlebury, Feb. 10, 1847, REV. EBENEZER O. BEERS, of the N. Y. Conference, of the M. E. Church.
AGED 28 YEARS 7 MO. & 16 DAYS.
He asked not a stone to be sculptured in verse
He asked not that fame should his merits rehearse
But he asked as a boon when he gave up the ghost
That his brethren might know that he died at his post."
Erected by Middlebury & Waterbury Circuit."

(Editorial comment: It seems strange that a stone should have been erected in Watertown if he was buried in Middlebury. It seems much more likely that he was buried in the Old Burying Ground in Watertown.)

Children of Melicent and Ebenezer:
James Wesley married Callie Amelia Sharer and Salinda Viola Atwood.
George Osborne married Clara Matilda Taylor and Clarissa Marcelia Bunnel.

William Minor Bowker, a local preacher and farmer in Herrickville, Pennsylvania, had married Betsey, a sister of Ebenezer. In 1849, Melicent and the children visited the Beers family in Pennsylvania. She and William were married at Owego, New York, on February 4, 1850.

They remained at the Beers farm, where Julius was born. That same year they bought the farm in Herrick Township, since known as "The Bowker Farm." It was here in a log house that their second child, Melicent Betsey, was born. Melicent Skilton Bowker brought up her own two children, the two Beers boys, and the two Bowker children, as well as William's and Betsey's son, Nelson.

At the 21st Reunion in 1886, George Frederick Skilton said of William Bowker: "A man of sterling worth and integrity; marked religious tendencies and wonderful ability and success in conducting special religious services."

William was born at Union, New York, May 24, 1816, and died of pneumonia at Herrick, Pennsylvania, on February 17, 1886. His parents came from Hampden County, Massachusetts (where Springfield is now located.) In 1814 or 1815, they moved to Union, Broome County, New York, where William Minor, his twin brother, Willard Major, and Nelson Bowker were born. Their father was Willard Bowker.

When William was a teen-ager, his older brother, Amos, who was a blacksmith at Le Raysville, Pennsylvania, urged him to come to that town where he could earn his board and get a better education. It was here that he met and fell in love with Betsey Bowker.

Over William's grave is a Methodist Minister's marker.

Children of Melicent and William:
Julius Avery married Hattie Asenath Wood.
Melicent Betsey (always called Millie) married Arthur Warren Wood, brother of Hattie.

One of the fond memories of the older generation is the quartet composed of Millie Wood, her husband, Arthur, and their two sons, William and Ernest. Theirs was a very musical family and their renditions, particularly of religious music, were exceptionally fine.

(See pages 117 and 118 of the Cyclopeedy.)

9. *GEORGE FREDERICK SKILTON*

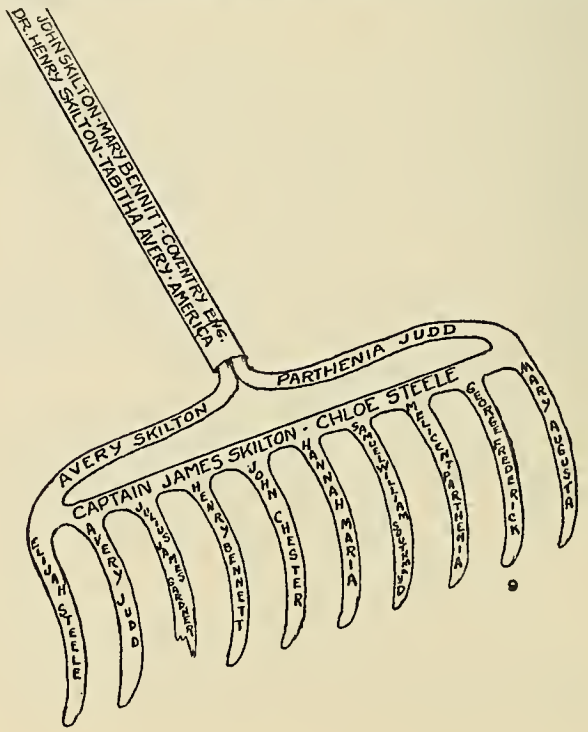
Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, February 11, 1820; died at Watertown, July 18, 1895; buried in Evergreen Cemetery, Watertown, Connecticut.

Although offered an opportunity to study medicine with his brother, Avery, George decided to stay home on the farm and care for his parents.

On May 4, 1841, he married (1st) Wealthy Maria Munn, at the Old Methodist Church in North Watertown. Wealthy's home was the Old Toll House, just across the street from the Church.

(See Map of North Watertown, on page 3.)

Wealthy was born at Watertown, August 16, 1819; died there, December 3, 1848; buried in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street.



Child of George and Wealthy:
Emily Augusta married Charles Josiah Cook, the photographer for the Family Reunions.

George's second marriage, to Abigail Wilcox, took place at Winsted, Connecticut, on January 20, 1850, and brought another distinguished ancestral line to the Skilton family. Abigail was of the ninth generation of Wilcoxes; George, the fourth of the Skiltons.

Abigail[9] Wilcox, Almira Richards, Abigail Knapp, Joshua, Caleb, Samuel, Caleb, Nicholas, John.

George was noted for his industry and his perseverance. He was respected as a man whose word could be depended upon on all occasions. He was a staunch Methodist, holding many responsible positions in his church.

His obituary reads in part: "He had a strong and abiding faith in God's word, from first to last, desiring the Bible to be placed upon his coffin rather than flowers or other emblems. He was very earnest, zealous and devoted to his labors for Christ, as was shown in prayer meetings, class meetings and in his services to the church to which he belonged . . . He desired that others of us should take up and continue the work he had so long loved and followed. He was very firm in his adherence to duty, and rigid in his observance of the Sabbath, making it a day of worship and not of recreation."

As a small child, Abigail was taken by her family to the Connecticut Western Reserve in Ohio, part of the way by "prairie schooner" and the rest by canal. Her early life in the wilderness was attended by many hardships.

She was visiting relatives in Winsted when she met George.

"Aunt Abigail," as she was known to the whole Skilton Family, kept a scrap book in which she pasted items of importance. This proved of great value when the Cyclopedy was being prepared. Unfortunately it seems to have disappeared.

From her obituary: "The success of the Family Reunions was largely due to her and her contemporaries, for her husband's relatives were hers, and her kind hospitality and cordial greetings will never be forgotten by those who came under her influence."

She was born December 16, 1827, at Wolcotville, (now Torrington) Connecticut; died at Watertown on May 18, 1910; buried in Evergreen Cemetery there.

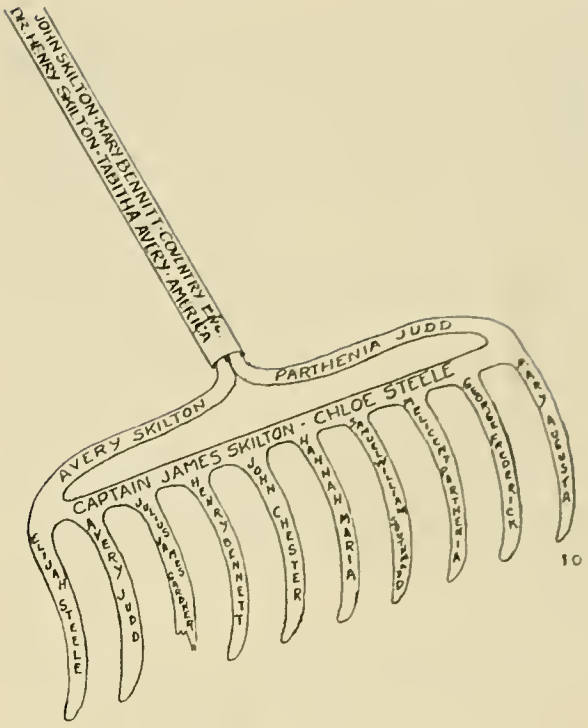
Children of George and Abigail:
Alice died in childhood.
Nellie Maria married Samuel Henry Jones.
James George married Eliza Abigail Judson.
Albert Wilcox married Anna Mills Peck.
Carrie May married Charles Herbert Skilton.

(See pages 118-123 incl. of the Cyclopedy.)

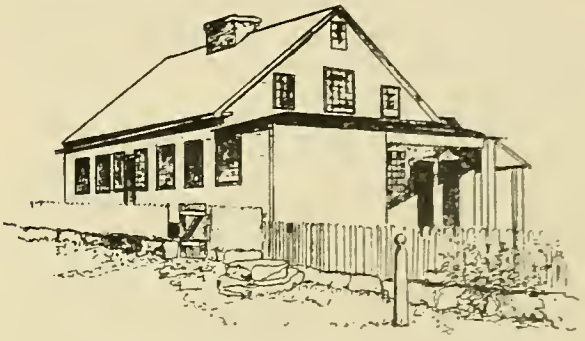
10. MARY AUGUSTA SKILTON

Born at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, Connecticut, November 14, 1823; died at Prospect, Augnst 26, 1901; buried there.

Mary also attended the Emma Willard Seminary in Troy, New York, and graduated from that institution. Then she taught school in Troy for two years.



When she and Merit Clark were married at Watertown, Connecticut, December 29, 1847, she forged the last link in the Skilton-Clark chain.



The Merit Clark Homestead
Prospect, Connecticut

The Merit Clark Homestead, pictured above and on page 32 of the Cyclopeedy, was built in 1799 by Amos Hotchkiss. He sold the farm to Merit Clark, Sr., some time before 1818. (Merit Clark, Jr., was born at the Homestead in 1818.)

Its ample fireplaces, its twenty-four paned windows, its tall clock fastened against a beam of the living room—these were Mary's memories of her first and only home as a married woman. The house is still standing (1964) and is still in the family. It is located on the east side of Clark Hill Road, about four-tenths of a mile north of the junction of Clark Hill Road and Union City Road (in 1964, Conn. Route 68.)

The stones in the porch floor are huge slabs of mica-filled granite which sparkle in the sun. They were brought from Cheshire, eight miles away by four yoke of oxen. Two of the stones deserve special mention. One is called a "LYE STONE" and has a surface area of twenty-four square feet. Wood ashes and

water were placed in the center of this stone, then the seepage was collected at one point by means of a half-inch groove carved around the outer edge of the stone. The liquid lye was used in the home for dyeing and soap making. The other stone is the "WELL CURB STONE," approximately four by six feet. This has a perfect semi-circle cut from one side, beneath which there is a twenty-three foot well.

Merit, a farmer, represented the town in the General Assembly. He was there when word was brought that Fort Sumter had been fired upon. So upset was he when word was brought that President Lincoln had been assassinated that he collapsed.

From Mary's obituary: "Mary was the kind of wife and mother who put home first and foremost in her attention. An active church member and teacher in the Sunday School and President of the Ladies' Aid Society, yet her best efforts were expended for her family and home friends. She was especially well known for her quaint humor and her continually sunny nature."

Mary was the youngest child of the ten—the last Tooth of the Rake. Although she was an invalid after the birth of her last child, Lavergne, she always insisted on attending every Reunion. For her this was a family affair, a real MUST. The long trip by horse and wagon was trying and wearisome, causing her much pain as well as anxiety to her family.

Merit was born at the Merit Clark Homestead in Prospect, April 2, 1818; died there February 1, 1894; buried in Prospect.

Their children:
Marion Adella died unmarried.
Kate Chloette married Harry Levi Payne.
Halsey Steele married Fannie Moulton Phipps.
Lavergne Grant married Katharine Louise Bingham.

(See pages 120-124 incl. of the Cyclopeedy.)

WHAT OTHER PEOPLE SAID OF OUR ANCESTORS

At the 33rd Reunion in 1897, the reporter wrote: "They are numbered . . . among them some of the best known, upright, patriotic and religious members that this, as well as any other community, can boast of, and the name of Skilton, as one of the members rightly remarked has never been sullied."

In the obituary of James George Skilton, the reporter wrote:

"Mr. Skilton was one of God's noblemen. He exemplified in his long life the finest notes of Christian life."

WHAT OUR ANCESTORS SAID

At the 24th Reunion in 1889, James Avery Skilton, a student of genealogy, made these remarks:

"In studying the history of Dr. Henry Skilton, it is interesting to note how much influence his principles of action had over the lives and destinies of some hundreds of his descendants. Largely because of the breaking up of the family through the action of the press-gang in seizing his father in the streets of Coventry, the doctor maintained through life a strong feeling of repugnance to the English government and toward the organized Christianity of his native land; the effects of which may be traced in the lives of his descendants and are to be seen and felt among them to this day."

At the 17th Reunion in 1882, Merritt Clark Skilton paid this tribute to his ancestors:

"We owe much, under Providence, of the peace and comfort which prevails among us today . . . to the strong religious traits of our ancestry. We are today reaping the benefit from this influence . . . It is religion which inclines us to give aid and a hand in the Church and Sunday School, and may religious faith and Christian principle be our chief end and aim, and our rule of action."

Editorial Comments

From these and other tributes, some quoted in the personal histories of the Teeth and particularly from comments made by contemporaries, we conclude that our ancestors were God-fearing men and women; deeply religious without being sanctimonious; industrious; honest; self-reliant; patriotic; all-round people who did their part and a little more in Church, in their towns and in society.

Anyone who does any research into the early history of the Skilton Family cannot fail to be impressed by the uniformly high character of the women the Skilton men selected for their wives. Theirs was a difficult life, yet their deeply religious beliefs, cheerfulness, industry, hospitality and their desire for a better education for their children, all contributed to a high plane of ethics and the sanctity of the home.

THE FAMILY GATHERINGS

In 1861, Mary Augusta, widow of Avery Judd Skilton, was boarding with her sister-in-law, Maria Clark, in Middlebury, Connecticut. Maria's mother, Chloe Steele Skilton, was also living there. It was then that Mary Augusta proposed in the presence of Grandmother Chloe that there should be a gathering of her descendants in her honor, annually, as long as she lived.

This suggestion was seized upon by Grandmother Chloe. Her husband had been dead for thirteen years; seven of her ten children were living and married; she had forty living grandchildren, scattered from Connecticut to Ohio: and what could be more natural than to wish to see her whole family once more.

The first such gathering was held that same year at the home of Gould Smith Clark, in Middlebury, Connecticut, where Grandmother Chloe lived.

In 1964, with ten generations now in the family—counting John of Coventry as the first—it is difficult to appreciate just what that first gathering really was. It was simply Chloe's family—her sons and daughters, their wives and husbands and their children—a completely informal family party at home.

And that is what the Reunions ought to be . . . completely informal family parties.

The Civil War intervened and the second gathering was not held until 1865—a fitting time for a celebration. This was held at the Captain James Skilton Homestead in North Watertown, the home of George Frederick Skilton. This was the last gathering at which Grandmother Chloe was present.

In 1865, at the very time the relatives were gathering at the Captain James Skilton Homestead, some of the members of the Henry Skilton-Maria Marshall

family were meeting in Chicago. Dual Reunions were thus started as far back as our second Reunion. The Ohio branch has revived this practice.

With the exception of 1866 and 1868, these gatherings were held each year at the home of a brother or sister or other close relative until 1887. (No reason is known for the omission of those two years.)

At some Reunion before 1887, apparently there was some discussion of future Reunions. The following was discovered by Edith May Skilton, when going through some old records:

> "Thursday afternoon several of the connections met at Merritt's to make some arrangements about the family gatherings.
>
> "Believing it advisable that in order to preserve the harmony and consistency in arrangements for which our gatherings are noted, that we pass a few resolutions to abate if possible what seems to some unnecessaries which they who have prepared our entertainment heretofore have with kindness performed.
>
> "Resolved: that at future Reunions each family shall provide but one kind of cake.
>
> "Resolved: that meat shall be discarded from the table with the single exception of dried beef which may be provided only at a family's perfect convenience.
>
> "Resolved: that potato and turnip shall be wholly discarded.
>
> "Resolved: that we discourage all unnecessary expenditure of money or labor in fitting up the house and grounds where the Reunion is held.
>
> "Resolved: that the object of the Gatherings is based upon a true desire for the promotion of kindred friendship which is of more importance than the gratifying of our appetites."

Officers:

It was decided to have a President in 1873 and it was in that year that the term "Annual Reunion" first appeared. (I can still remember my father referring to the Reunion as the "Gathering.") No one is alive today who can give the reason why officers were elected, but it might have been to make someone responsible for planning the next year's Reunion.

Other officers included the Vice Presidents—usually one from each of the nine branches of the family (with a few extra for good measure). Their duties were those customarily assigned to Vice-Presidents—nominal duties only. A Chaplain was always elected, generally someone outside of the family. Those early Skiltons were a very religious group and felt that a gentleman of the cloth should be invited to serve as their Chaplain. A Chorister, or as we would call him today, a Song Leader, for those Skiltons could sing! A Secretary and Historian, an Assistant Secretary and ultimately a Treasurer completed the early official family. The Treasurer came into being after Reunions were held at Lake Quassapaug and his title then was Treasurer and Collector.

And inevitably an organization breeds committees. These included:

Program or Music Committee—duties obvious.

Registration Committee—they used to "sign in" in those early days.

Registers still exist with the signatures of the older generations.

Later on a list of attendants was kept by the Registrar and after the Reunion, the Registrar recorded these names in the Register.

Table Committee—the most popular and the most arduous by far. For many years each family brought food and the families had a sort of "pot luck" meal together.

Memorial Committee—preparing tributes to departed members.

Executive Committee—no one seems to know just what its functions were but probably it was mostly honorary.

Badge Committee—everyone was "tagged". Even then it was difficult to keep up with the new faces and the growing youngsters.

Nominating Committee—duties obvious. For a further explanation, see "The Preliminary".

(See Appendix I for "The Family Organization".)

Right here is an appropriate place to pay tribute to some members of the Family who served "over and above the call of duty."

Artison Skilton Clark was the first Secretary and Historian and held that position until his death 64 years later.

Halsey Steele Clark was Assistant Secretary for most of those years.

Edith May Skilton was Chairman of the Memorial Committee for some 50 years. She had a remarkable ability for bringing out the traits of our departed relatives which should be remembered.

Arthur Nichols Skilton, elected Treasurer in 1896 and continued in that position until his death in 1951.

Henry Irving Skilton, (always called Irving), elected Registrar in 1926 and continued as Registrar and Statistician until his death in 1956.

At the 19th Reunion, in 1884, held at Merit Clark's home in Prospect, Connecticut, the Reunion Report says: "A severe thunder shower coming on about 4 o'clock detained many who would have otherwise returned to their homes that night, consequently 31 persons shared the hospitality of Merit Clark till the weather admitted of their returning to their homes the following day."

> (For the benefit of those whose knowledge of traveling is only by automobile, it should be remembered that even though some surreys could be partially closed in with side curtains, the riders were always at the mercy of the elements. Driving any distance in the rain meant that everyone would be soaking wet.)

Although Mary Augusta was not mentioned, it is quite likely that where they all slept: what they were fed; and how they fared were mostly her concern, not her husband's, even though he was the official 'host'.

Edith Skilton writes (in 1964): "The shower was so long lasting and so heavy that there were 31 who stayed at Uncle Merit's and 14 at Halsey's (Merit's son who lived next door.) I was among those who stayed at Uncle Merit's and slept in the spare room —one of seven. I think a feather bed was spread on the floor for us girls. (Editorial comment: Can you imagine them getting any sleep?) It was said that Artison Clark pared a half bushel of potatoes, but this might have been somewhat exaggerated."

In 1885, the report on the 20th Reunion says in part: "The Skilton Family held their twentieth annual reunion at the residence of A. S. Clark, Middlebury, on Thursday and Friday, September 10th and 11th."

It appears that the 10th was rainy and only 54 showed up. The 11th was a perfect day and "other members of the family who were kept at home by clouds and rain on the preceding day, gathered at the same place and to the same number as on the preceding day."

(Editor's query? Do you suppose Artison wondered when he waked up on that cloudy, rainy morning of the 10th if he were going to have to pare another half bushel of potatoes?)

For some reason, now unknown, the Family decided to meet at Lake Quassapaug in 1887. Perhaps this was an attempt to keep the children happy. Perhaps the number attending had grown too large for any one house to accommodate them.

After meeting at Lake Quassapaug, in Middlebury, for a few years, it was decided in 1897 to meet in the old Town Hall at Watertown. That old building, where the youngsters used to chase from the second floor, where the meeting was held, down the old back stairs to the basement where someone had made lemonade—and, oh! what lemonade. Memory makes it taste even better today than it did on those hot August afternoons.

At the 34th Reunion, in 1889, Frederick Sherman Watkins and Martha Washington Rankin were married.

Twice the Reunions were postponed from August to October because of the prevalence of infantile paralysis. (1931 and 1935)

For many years, the dinners at Reunions were picnics. Everyone brought some special dish and all shared them. With more and more of the family living in cities and more and more coming from a distance, this practice gave way to having the dinner catered. The Ladies' Aid at both Middlebury and Morris served us excellent dinners at a price which startles us today. We wonder how they ever made any money at the price they charged. More recently, professional caterers have been used.

Attendance:

In the early days everyone who could do so signed the Register. Thus an accurate count was kept of those attending. But this number included many guests. After all, these Reunions were family parties, the food was contributed by the members and the cost was relatively small: rental of the hall and postage. So the local ministers, the in-laws and visiting guests were all welcome.

The largest attendance reported was 152 in 1925, including guests. The Reunion that year was held at Columbia Hall in Watertown. Normally the number ran from around 50 on a stormy day to 125 on a good day. In recent years, the attendance has been almost exclusively relatives and runs from 80 to 100.

Photographs:

At the suggestion of James Avery Skilton, a photograph was taken in 1889, by a commercial photographer named Hazzard. Unfortunately, this photo was not coded, but Edith May Skilton, with her remarkable memory, has coded that photo and has named almost all of those present except for a few guests.

Eventually Charles Josiah Cook, husband of Emily Augusta Skilton, the only child of George Frederick Skilton and Wealthy Maria Munn, who was adept at photography, became the family photographer. Many of us can remember his calling for silence, removing the cap from the lens of his camera, holding it for what seemed to be an interminable period, during which we had to sit still no matter how much we itched.

After Charles' death, various commercial photographers were used until it was decided to forego the photograph.

Awakening Interest

It was also in 1889 that a special committee was appointed:

> "to originate means for awakening a larger interest in the family looking toward the permanence of the organization and securing all possible data that may ever be of interest to them, and to group the same in such a form that it may readily be made a matter of record."

This committee, composed of James Avery Skilton, George Frederick Skilton and Merritt Clark Skilton, appears to have been the first formal attempt to collect vital statistics, although Dr. Avery Judd Skilton and his sons, James Avery, Julius Augustus and George Steele, had already proved themselves genealogists of merit.

The Preliminary

The Nominating Committee presents a curious picture of the "tail wagging the dog." This committee used to meet a few days before Reunion, usually at the home of the Chairman. There were nine members of the committee, one from each branch of the family. In addition to the committee members, the wives and husbands tagged along (mostly wives, for the men were "in control" in those days)—and the children—and grandma—and an aunt or uncle who couldn't be left home alone—until finally the meetings of the Nominating Committee were large social groups, meeting at the home of the Chairman and rivalling the Reunions in size.

Eventually the meetings were held earlier and earlier until June was the customary time. And in time, too, they were so well attended they had to meet in a hall.

Coming as they did initially just before the Reunion, they were referred to as "preliminary" to the Reunion. When they assumed such large proportions, the adjective "preliminary" suddenly became a noun with a capital: Preliminary.

Aunt Julia's Scrap Book:

Many years ago, Julia Emily Skilton, daughter of Henry Bennett Skilton and Emily Clark, started keeping a scrap book. This was a printed book about farming in which she pasted the newspaper accounts of the Family Reunions, obituaries and other items of interest. Here is a record of almost all of the Reunions from the first in 1861 until 1917.

This scrap hook has been the source of a great deal of the material which has gone into "The Teeth of the Rake"; has corrected some errors which crept into the Cyclopeedy; and has been a constant source of inspiration to the editor.

This scrap book is now the property of Edith May Skilton, whose intention is that it be preserved in the family.

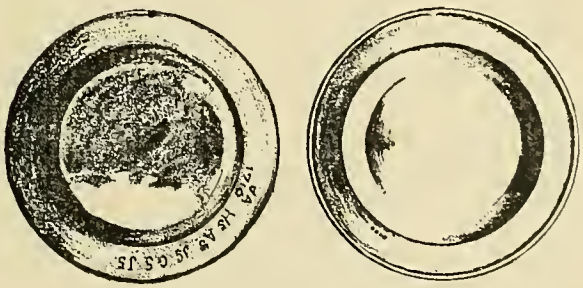
Artison Skilton Clark, Secretary and Historian, who wrote under the pseudonym of "C. S. A." (his initials in reverse order) sent a very complete story of each Reunion to the Waterbury American and they published each such story in full, until around 1917. Poems, anecdotes, vital statistics, obituaries, memorial resolutions—all are in this scrap book. We owe a deep debt of gratitude to Aunt Julia for her forethought.

(See Appendix II for a transcript of the Waterbury American's report on the First Gathering.)

Reunion Reports:

With the Cyclopeedy in the offing, it was felt desirable to have a printed record of vital statistics each year. In 1919, the Family experimented with its first printed Reunion Report. Commencing with 1919, a Reunion Report has been issued each year—some printed, some mimeographed — and distributed to those requesting copies. Some of these Reports have been very complete, with a list of officers and committees—including officers of THE FOUNDATION, a record of the business transacted—both by the Family and by THE FOUNDATION, and the vital statistics. Others have been restricted to the list of officers and committees and the vital statistics.

At the FOUNDATION meeting in 1964, it was voted to charge for future Reunion Reports and it is the intention to make them more complete in the future.



THE OLD PEWTER PLATTER

In the Report of the 13th Reunion in 1878, this appears:

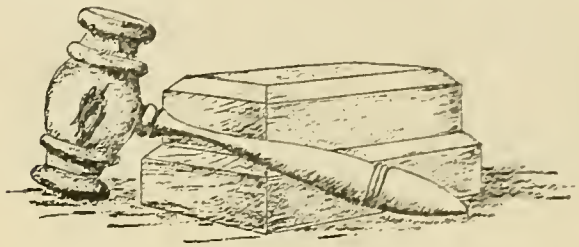
"The ancestral pewter platter bearing the date of 1710, also the initials of different possessors, was richly laden with flowers and made a very handsome ornament as it graced the center of the table."

This 18" pewter platter was originally the property of Joseph Avery, father of Tabitha Avery. It has been in the possession of Joseph Avery and his descendants since 1710.

The initials and figures on the back lip of the platter are:

1710	
JA	Joseph Avery
HS	Henry Skilton
AS	Avery Skilton
JS	Captain James Skilton
GS	George Frederick Skilton
JS	James George Skilton

It is now the property of Dorothy Avis (Skilton) Petersen. (1964)



THE GAVEL AND BLOCK

In the report of the 47th Reunion, in 1912, we read:

"Special mention was made of the absence of the Reverend John D. Skilton and the gavel which he presented to the family which was made from a tree on the battlefield where his father was wounded, and which is used at all the annual gatherings, was exhibited."

Just when the gavel was presented to the Family does not appear in the printed reports. It is possible that this was done in absentia in 1912.

On one side of the gavel a bullet is shown embedded into the wood. The battlefield referred to was Shiloh, where Alvah Stone Skilton was wounded.

On April 13, 1926, the block was presentd by Henry Alstone Skilton, son of John Davis Skilton. On the bottom of the block these words are "tattooed" into the wood:

"Wood from an elm tree cut down in
Independence Square, Philadelphia

April 1905
Presented to the Skilton Family
by
Henry Alstone Skilton
13 April 1926"

The gavel and block are used by the presiding officer at each Reunion. Between meetings, they are in the custody of the President.

THE SKILTON CHINA

At the 59th Reunion, held on August 20, 1924, a committee was appointed to secure the expression of the Family in regard to a "Skilton Plate." It was proposed that this be a Wedgwood plate, bearing a picture of "The Dr. Henry Skilton House" in Southington, Conn.

(See page 10 of the Cyclopeedy and the Frontisplece in the Supplement.)

The overwhelming response brought many plates and ultimately cups and saucers, creamers, sugar bowls, other bowls, platters—altogether fifteen different pieces—in both blue and mulberry, to the home of Charles Herbert Skilton. All came from the Wedgwood plant in England. More than any other one person, Charles was responsible for the successful promotion of these articles.

The family made a profit on the sale of the china which has been used for many worth while purposes. The first such use was the purchase of a bronze marker for a Revolutionary Soldier which was placed over the grave of Dr. Henry Skilton in the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown, Conn.

In 1964, at the 99th Reunion, the Family finally found the souvenir it had wanted for the 100th Reunion. Janice Matteson Marsh suggested a black and white Ceramic Tile Hot Plate, to be prepared with a picture of the same Dr. Henry Skilton House. The enthusiasm thus engendered resulted in the placement of an initial order for 500 of these hot plates. Various accessories are also available.

THE CYCLOPEEDY

With all of the vital statistics which had been collected by Avery Judd Skilton and his family, particularly by James Avery and George Steele, and with the example of the Averys, Judds, Steeles, Whites—and doubtless others—who had published their own genealogies, it is no wonder that the Skilton Family, with the proper spur being applied by John Davis Skilton, should decide to publish its own genealogy.

After much consideration of the ways and means of financing such an edition and after many delays due partly to World War I, the Skilton Genealogy, "Dr. Henry Skilton and His Descendants," came off the press in 1921. To attempt to assign credit for this vast undertaking would mean slighting some faithful workers but, even at that risk, the following must be singled out for special mention:

Dr. John Davis Skilton, Editor and guiding genius.
George Steele Skilton, collector of data for years.
Charles Herbert Skilton and his wife, Carrie May Skilton, who spent untold hours poring over data, correcting, editing, revising, hunting, proof reading, etc., etc.

Ira Cliffton Matteson, without whom nothing would have been printed, for Ira set up a large part of the type, thus saving the family a great deal of expense. And his wife, Ella Jones Matteson, should also be mentioned with a big "Thank You" for the many, many hours spent proof reading.

Three hundred copies were printed at a cost of $3060.18. That is what the books show. It does not include the expenses of John, Charles, Carrie, Ira, and many others who did not turn in expense reports. Their labor of love kept the cost down to $10 a volume.

In 1927, sufficient additional data had been collected to make the Family urge that a Supplement to the Cyclopeedy be printed. It was published that year, the co-editors being H. Irving Skilton and George W. Skilton. There were 340 Supplements printed to sell at $2.00 each. Again, a great deal of expense was borne by the editors and the use of a private print shop saved considerable expense.

It is interesting to note how the term "Cyclopeedy" came into being. A detailed explanation appears on pages 418 and 419 of the Supplement, but a condensed version is given here.

The term was coined by Eugene Field. He tells a story about a young married couple who subscribed to an encyclopedia—which they called "The Cyclopeedy"—agreeing to purchase a volume at a time as it came off the press. Many years later, with the wife dead and gone and the husband grown old and feeble, the last volume is delivered to him on his death bed. He clutches the volume and pays the agent just as his soul soars "rejoicin' to realms of everlastin' bliss." He dies unaware that his estate is obligated to purchase the index as yet unpublished.

The many delays and discouragements; inflation; World War I; printing restrictions; etc., etc. caused the Editor to wonder if the job would ever be finished and remembering Field's essay, he dubbed the genealogy "The Cyclopeedy." And so it is known to this day.

THE DR. HENRY SKILTON DESK

The desk used by Dr. Henry Skilton came to his great-great-grandson, Albert Wilcox Skilton, probably via Captain James and George Frederick Skilton. When Albert moved to De Land, Florida, he took the old desk with him. At his death, the desk went to his only son, George Samuel Skilton.

During his terminal illness, George found it necessary to dispose of the desk. Learning of his plans, Edna Abigail Skilton, his first cousin, who was also in De Land, contacted her father in Watertown. The result—the Skilton Family purchased the desk and had it sent back north.

At the 57th Reunion in 1922, the desk was presented to the Reverend Dr. John Davis Skilton. Charles H. Skilton had the honor of making the presentation speech. The gift had been a treasured heirloom in the family and its presentation to John was in loving recognition of his untiring and painstaking efforts in compiling the Cyclopeedy.

The desk, in 1964, is the property of John Davis Skilton, Jr.

THE DR. HENRY SKILTON FOUNDATION

At the Preliminary held on June 20, 1925, a committee was appointed to consider the establishment of a Fund in memory of Dr. Henry Skilton. At the 60th Reunion, August 19, 1925, the establishment of such a Fund was authorized. At the Preliminary on June 12, 1926, the Articles of Association were approved. Thus were born THE DOCTOR HENRY SKILTON ASSOCIATION and THE DOCTOR HENRY SKILTON FOUNDATION. The former was the legal body which might be incorporated if desired; the latter was the Fund itself. The Association had its own Trustees and its own set of officers which seldom were the same as the officers of the Skilton Family. The resulting confusion and the many meetings required—taking up most of the time on Reunion Day, caused the Family to look for some method of simplifying the procedure.

In 1953, a committee was appointed for this purpose and in 1954, the Skilton Family Association and THE FOUNDATION were merged into one body, THE DOCTOR HENRY SKILTON FOUNDATION —The Dr. Henry Skilton Association disappearing in the process.

Initially out of 319 eligible members, scattered all over the United States and Cuba, 94 returned signed application cards for membership. In 1963, this number had increased to 184. During 1964, an intensive drive was made among those eligible for membership and by midyear over 550 had been enrolled; by 1965 about 700.

The purposes of THE FOUNDATION are clearly stated in the Articles of Association (by-laws). Briefly, they are

a) To perpetuate an interest in the Skilton Family as a unit and to perpetuate the memory of its ancestors;

b) To continue the traditional Reunions;

c) To raise, augment, safeguard, invest and reinvest the funds of THE FOUNDATION;

d) To accomplish such helpful ministrations in behalf of members as the Board of Trustees may decide;

e) To undertake such projects and activities as THE FOUNDATION may elect.

Several bequests have been received and these permit THE FOUNDATION to pay almost all of the costs of the Reunions aside from catering costs.

THE FOUNDATION is a cooperative, non-profit, family organization. As such, it has no dues nor assessments. Members cannot in any way be held responsible for its activities. From voluntary gifts, from bequests, and from the sale of books and china, a small surplus has been accumulated. There is no possible reason why any eligible person should not apply for membership.

If any descendant of Captain James and Chloe Steele Skilton is not at present particularly concerned with family and genealogical affairs, his descendants some day may have such an interest and they might well wish that he had had the foresight to keep in close touch with one of the oldest families in the United States.

THE BANNER

In the report of the 16th Reunion, in 1881, mention is made of "The Banner."

> ". . . the beautiful banner, the work of Miss Emily Clark, upon which the two names, Clark and Skilton, were tastefully worked. Underneath was a plow (in net work) thereby representing the principal vocation of the families."

And in the report of the 24th Reunion, in 1889:

> "The family banner, the handiwork of Miss Emily Clark of Middlebury, was suspended over all, making a scene well worth the pen of an artist."

Also in the report of the 26th Reunion, in 1891:

> "With the help of her brother, Artison S. Clark, she constructed the complex banner, which many of you remember, uniting so beautifully the Skilton and Clark names and expressing by two hearts the relationship and by the plow, rake, &c the general occupation of the families."

Only a few pieces of the original banner remain. Unfortunately no one is alive today who can remember just what the original banner looked like. The present banner was a later design.

The banners have always been made by the "Middlebury" Clarks. They are a treasure which should be retained in the Family archives.

THE GARDINER SPOON

The date and initials:

1650	
G	
W&E	William and Elizabeth Gardiner
J&TA	Joseph and Tabitha Avery
H&TS	Henry and Tabitha Skilton
A&PS	Avery and Parthenia Skilton
TS	Tabitha Skilton
G&AS	George and Abigail Skilton

and on the reverse side, not shown in the sketch:

J&ES	James and Eliza Skilton
G&LS	George and Lora Skilton

The spoon pictured here has been an heirloom for generations. It was originally the property of William and Elizabeth Gardiner, the grandparents of Tabitha Avery.

Then it came to Tabitha Gardiner, wife of Joseph Avery. From them it went to Tabitha Avery, their daughter.

From Henry and Tabitha Skilton it went to Avery and Parthenia, then on to Tabitha, their unmarried daughter who lived on what is now Conn. Route 109, about one-half mile east of the intersection with Strait's Turnpike, Conn. Route 63.

From Tabitha it went to her nephew, George Frederick Skilton, following down his family since then.

MARKER OVER THE GRAVE OF DR. HENRY SKILTON

Immediately following the 61st Reunion, on August 18, 1926, a large number of the family journeyed down to the Old Burying Ground on Main Street in Watertown, for a brief ceremony unveiling a bronze marker over the grave of Dr. Henry Skilton.

This marker is of standard design to indicate the place of interment of a Revolutionary Soldier. It reads:

Henry Skilton
Revolutionary Soldier
Surgeon and Chaplain

Sarah Whitman Trumbull Chapter
Daughters of the American
Revolution

The ceremony was simple and dignified as befitted the life and character of Dr. Henry. The Reverend Francis B. Whitcome, Rector of Christ Church, Watertown, offered an impressive prayer, at the close of which all united in The Lord's Prayer.

"America" was sung under the leadership of H. Irving Skilton.

Chloe Skilton Myers read the following poem composed for the occasion by Catharine Amanda Skilton.

"We are told in song and story,
In records reverently kept,
Of heroic Henry Skilton,
Who for many years has slept
In the quiet of God's Acre,
In a small New England town,
Little dreaming of the glory
That has brought his name renown.
We here unveil this tablet,
That he who runs may read
The record of his service,
Of every patriotic deed.
To perpetuate his memory,
In Reunion we are met,
That never shall a Skilton
Need to say 'Lest we forget!'"

After the singing of "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past," Dr. John Davis Skilton spoke appropriately of the marker, telling how it was secured, why it was being placed over Dr. Henry's grave and voicing sentiments of patriotism and appreciation of the Family's ancestral heritage.

At the conclusion of these remarks, the bronze tablet, which had been draped with the American Flag, surmounted by a brass eagle, was unveiled by Sperry Barnes Skilton and Barbara Southmayd Skilton. The assembled company sang "The Star Spangled Banner" and at the close of the exercises the Benediction was pronounced by Dr. John Davis Skilton.

APPENDIX I

THE FAMILY ORGANIZATION

Reunion	*Year*	*President*	*Held at the Home of*
1st	1861	Informal Gathering	Gould Smith Clark
2nd	1865	Informal Gathering	George Frederick Skilton
3rd	1867	Informal Gathering	Julius James Skilton
4th	1869	Informal Gathering	Gould Smith Clark
5th	1870	Informal Gathering	Henry Bennett Skilton
6th	1871	Informal Gathering	Merritt Clark Skilton
7th	1872	Informal Gathering	Merit Clark
8th	1873	Informal Gathering	George Frederick Skilton
9th	1874	George Frederick Skilton	Julius James Skilton
10th	1875	Henry Bennett Skilton	George Frederick Skilton
11th	1876	George Frederick Skilton	Merritt Clark Skilton
12th	1877	Henry Bennett Skilton	Samuel William Southmayd Skilton
13th	1878	Samuel William Southmayd Skilton	Joel Cook
14th	1879	(no record)	Julius James Skilton
15th	1880	Henry Bennett Skilton	Samuel William Southmayd Skilton
16th	1881	Samuel William Southmayd Skilton	Henry Bennett Skilton
17th	1882	Gould Smith Clark	George Frederick Skilton
18th	1883	George Frederick Skilton	Merritt Clark Skilton
19th	1884	Merritt Clark Skilton	Merit Clark
20th	1885	Halsey Steele Clark	Artison Skilton Clark
21st	1886	Julius James Skilton	Henry Bennett Skilton
			Held at
22nd	1887	Merritt Clark Skilton	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
23rd	1888	Gould Smith Clark	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
24th	1889	Merritt Clark Skilton	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
25th	1890	James Avery Skilton (absent) Merritt Clark Skilton, President Pro Tempore, presided.	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
26th	1891	Merritt Clark Skilton	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
27th	1892	Merritt Clark Skilton	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
28th	1893	Merritt Clark Skilton	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
29th	1894	Merritt Clark Skilton	Richardson's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
30th	1895	Merritt Clark Skilton	Wallace's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
31st	1896	Merritt Clark Skilton (deceased) James George Skilton, Vice President, presided.	Wallace's Grove, Lake Quassapaug
32nd	1897	James George Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
33rd	1898	Halsey Steele Clark	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
34th	1899	Joel White Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
35th	1900	De Witt Clinton Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
36th	1901	Artison Skilton Clark	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
37th	1902	James Avery Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
38th	1903	Julius James Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
39th	1904	James Wesley Beers	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
40th	1905	John Davis Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
41st	1906	Albert Wilcox Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
42nd	1907	Lavergne Grant Clark	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
43rd	1908	Brownell Gould Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
44th	1909	George Steele Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
45th	1910	Robert William Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
46th	1911	Julius Avery Bowker	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
47th	1912	Charles Candee Skilton (ill) Lavergne Grant Clark, Vice President, presided.	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
48th	1913	Truman Smith Skilton (absent) James George Skilton, Vice President, presided.	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
49th	1914	Cyrus Anthony Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
50th	1915	William DeWitt Watkins	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
51st	1916	Arthur Nichols Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.

Reunion	*Year*	*President*	*Held at*
52nd	1917	Albert Gould Clark	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
53rd	1918	Harry Alling Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
54th	1919	Pearl Julius Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
55th	1920	Charles Herbert Skilton	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
56th	1921	Ada May (Skilton) Lamphier	Town Hall, Watertown, Conn.
57th	1922	Ernest White Skilton	Columbia Hall, Watertown, Conn.
58th	1923	Harry Edward Clark	Columbia Hall, Watertown, Conn.
59th	1924	John Davis Skilton	Columbia Hall, Watertown, Conn.
60th	1925	Chloe Mariella (Skilton) Myers	Community Hall, Watertown, Conn.
61st	1926	Cyrus Anthony Skilton	Community Hall, Watertown, Conn.
62nd	1927	Robert Henry Watkins (absent) Allan Judd Clark, Vice President, presided.	Community Hall, Watertown, Conn.
63rd	1928	Allan Judd Clark	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
64th	1929	James Lyman Skilton	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
65th	1930	John Alanson Beers	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
66th	1931	James George Skilton (deceased) Carrie May (Skilton) Skilton, President Pro Tempore, presided.	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
67th	1932	Clifford Phipps Clark	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
68th	1933	Henry Alstone Skilton	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
69th	1934	Chloe Mariella (Skilton) Myers	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
70th	1935	Henry Irving Skilton	Community Hall, Watertown, Conn.
71st	1936	Lewis Ira Watkins	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
72nd	1937	Wesley Frost Ayer (absent) George Warner Skilton, Vice President, presided.	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
73rd	1938	George Warner Skilton	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
74th	1939	William Arthur Wood	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
75th	1940	Edna Abigail (Skilton) Winslow	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
76th	1941	Adella Elizabeth (Clark) Williamson, (absent), Gould Bingham Clark, President Pro Tempore, presided.	
77th	1942	Catharine Amanda Skilton	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
78th	1943	Joseph Isaac Riley	Columbia Hall, Watertown, Conn.
79th	1944	Elton Robert Skilton	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
80th	1945	Eugene Harry Lamphier	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
81st	1946	Harold George Skilton	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
82nd	1947	Wesley Frost Ayer (absent) John Alanson Beers, Vice President, presided.	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
83rd	1948	John Alanson Beers (absent) Robert Coggswell Skilton, Vice President, presided.	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
84th	1949	Robert Coggswell Skilton	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
85th	1950	Sperry Barnes Skilton	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
86th	1951	Ethel Maria (Clark) Bronson (absent), William Cyrus Cleveland, Vice President, presided.	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
87th	1952	William Cyrus Cleveland	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
88th	1953	George Dwight Beers	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
89th	1954	Lora Agnes (Skilton) Skilton	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
90th	1955	Russell Fenn Tolles	Town Hall, Middlebury, Conn.
91st	1956	Ernest White Skilton	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
92nd	1957	Pearl Julius Skilton (ill) George Warner Skilton, President-Elect, presided.	Community Hall, Morris, Conn.
93rd	1958	George Warner Skilton	Pythian Hall, Cheshire, Conn.
94th	1959	Bradley Thackray Myers	Pythian Hall, Cheshire, Conn.
95th	1960	Edwina Harriet (Riley) Colby	Pythian Hall, Cheshire, Conn.
96th	1961	Alden Allen Ives	Pythian Hall, Cheshire, Conn.
97th	1962	Josephine Augusta (Clark) Collins	Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford, Conn.

Reunion	*Year*	*President*	*Held at*
98th	1963	Joseph Arnold Yates	Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford, Conn.
99th	1964	Janice Irella (Matteson) Marsh	Pond House, Elizabeth Park, Hartford, Conn.
100th	1965	Edward Karl Skilton	Greater Hartford YMCA Outdoor Ctr. North Colebrook, Conn.

APPENDIX II

SKILTON FAMILY GATHERING

The following is a copy of an article which appeared in the (Waterbury) American on September 14, 1861, or shortly thereafter.

"Perhaps there is nothing in the history of events pleasanter to record than the gathering together from far and near of the members of a large, prosperous and united family.

"Thus it was on Friday, September 13th, 1861. The descendants of Avery Skilton, declared one of the oldest families of Litchfield County, met to the number of forty or more at the residence of Gould S. Clark, Esq., Middlebury, Ct.

"The day was auspicious, and early in the morning from different parts of the state, New York, and the west, they commenced to arrive in single and double teams, flags flying, and happy hearts all eager to participate in the joys of the day.

"Very soon willing hearts and busy hands were at work making ready for the feast that was to take place in the open air, and at 2 p.m., all were gathered around the heavily laden table ready to do justice to its bounties.

"A prayer was offered by the Rev. Mr. Judd, of Middlebury, and 'then came the tug of war'.

"After full justice had been done to the viands, 'Order' was called, and H. B. Skilton, Esq., of Watertown, Ct., rose and made a few remarks, speaking of the pleasure of the gathering, its influence upon our lives, the joy that the aged mother (nearly 81 years of age) must experience in witnessing such a happy, united family, all true to this glorious 'Union', and closed by calling for three cheer for the 'Stars and Stripes'.

"S. W. S. Skilton, of Morris, Ct., then gave a toast: The Skilton Family — By Industry, Economy and Sobriety we thrive!

"He followed it by a few remarks, speaking of the effect upon the minds of those present, of interchange of thought, mutual counsel, and of the pleasure of meeting at such a time the aged and the youth of the family. A sad thought was suggested by the many vacant chairs, and he closed by giving the following sentiments:

Absent Friends — At their absence we grieve, but we would tender to them in remembrance the enjoyments we this day experience.

Departed Friends — May their memory be ever blessed.

"He was followed by G. F. Skilton, Esq., of Watertown, Ct., who alluded to his being the younger member of the first generation, thus forming, as it were, a link between 'the old and the young'. He spoke quite tenderly of the aged mother now passing down life's decline and approaching that 'eternal rest' prepared by our blessed Saviour for those fully ripened in this vineyard of his Father.

"Some of the younger members of the family then followed with a few remarks, and the following was then given by D. W. C. Skilton, of Hartford, Ct.:

The Gathering of Today: May its joys and its pleasures long be treasured in our hearts and become significant to us of that final gathering around 'Our Father's table in his Kingdom above.'

"After a short time spent in social intercourse &c, preparations began to be made for parting, but just at this time all were happily surprised by the arrival of a brother and sister from Penn., too late to enjoy the pleasures of the day, but in time to see friends before parting.

"In a few moments, hurried adieus were said and this happy gathering was scattered, and if never to meet again here below, it is our prayer that they shall all meet in the palace of our 'Great King', in that 'City' whose streets and pavements are of gold, and where there are no more partings."

D. W. C. S.

Hartford, Sept. 14, 1861
For The American

MY FAMILY TREE

First Generation: John Skilton and Mary Bennitt, who lived in Coventry, England.

Second Generation: Dr. Henry Skilton and Tabitha Avery, who lived in Preston; Southington; Woodbury; and Watertown, Conn.

Third Generation: Avery Skilton and Parthenia Judd, who lived in Preston; Bethlehem; and Watertown, Conn.

Fourth Generation: Captain James Skilton and Chloe Steele, who lived in Watertown, Conn.

Fifth Generation: THE TEETH OF THE RAKE
(Elijah Steele; Avery Judd; Henry Bennett; John Chester; Hannah Maria (Clark); Samuel William Southmayd; Melicent Parthenia (Beers) or (Bowker); George Frederick; Mary Augusta (Clark).

MY TINE is .....

who married .....

and lived in .....

Sixth Generation: ..... and .....

who lived in .....

Seventh Generation: ..... and .....

who lived in .....

Eighth Generation: ..... and .....

who lived in .....

Ninth Generation: ..... and .....

who lived in .....

Tenth Generation: ..... and .....

who lived in .....

Eleventh Generation: ..... and .....

who lived in .....

BIRTHS

Name	*Child of*	*On*	*At*

..... and .....

on ..... at ..... Officiant: .....

..... and .....

on ..... at ..... Officiant: .....

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DEATHS

Name	*on*	*at*	*Burial at*